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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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8 teens allegedly plotted robbery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Tourist injured in separate attempted robbery

Eight male teens were arrested in a robbery case in Susupe, while a man failed in an attempt to rob a woman on Monday night—both instances targeting tourists.

See ROBBERY on Page 4

FAA, NTSB look into emergency landing

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is cooperating with federal agencies as they look into the Aug. 31 incident involving a Star Marianas Airlines aircraft that had to make an emergency landing following a bird strike that crippled its landing gear.

CPA said the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board were notified of the incident and that the CPA is cooperating with these agencies that are conducting their own investigations.

See FAA on Page 4

House recalls retroactive payment bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» Retroactive payment bill had 'technical concerns'

The House of Representatives unanimously voted yesterday to recall the retroactive payment bill that would have addressed the wages of government employees whose wages were stuck at Step 12.

This came about after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in a statement last week that there were "technical concerns" with the language of House

See HOUSE on Page 4

KONQER chief operating officer Kaz Endo makes a presentation at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

KONQER comes to Saipan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The first KONQER competition is set for Saipan this weekend and has already enticed 500 individuals to take on the obstacle challenge.

According to KONQER chief operating officer Kaz Endo, the event promotes wellness with a mix of fun that is reminiscent of childhood memories. The mission is to promote wellness through play.

During Endo's presentation at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday, he said

See KONQER on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
Young immigrants shielded from deportation are battling to keep those protections.
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ASIA
North Korea's leader is "begging for war," the U.S. ambassador sells the U.N. Security Council.
PAGE 15

FOCUS
Many who had left to avoid Hurricane Harvey are still faced with dire housing needs.
PAGE 17

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Local

Bill to pay govt balance with Settlement Fund returns to House

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An appropriation bill that would allocate funds to pay what the CNMI government owes the Settlement Fund passed the Senate with amendments last week, sending the measure back to the House.

House Bill 20-116 SD2 was sent back to the House since a previous bill with the similar intent to appropriate funds for amounts the Commonwealth government owes the Settlement Fund had been recalled.

The intent of HB 20-116 is to address the Commonwealth government's balance with the Settlement Fund amounting to $7.1 million that remains unpaid. The $7.1 million is the combined difference in the minimum annual payment of $25 million and $27 million from 17 percent of the total annual revenue for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, respectively.

During discussions on HB 20-116, Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) questioned the legislation's failure to specify a source of funds, plunging the Senate body into a 40-minute recess discussing the technicality of the legislation with House legal counsels John Cool and Joe Taijeron. Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) also brought up some concerns with the bill.

Following the recess, the Senate unanimously adopted Sen. Francisco Borja's (R-Tinian) floor amendment that specifies the source of funding.

This is the second appropriation bill where the Senate pointed out that the bill failed to specify a source of funds.

The Senate had also questioned the failure of HB 20-108 to specify a source of funds. The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had issued a statement, saying that the bill would be revisited due to "technical concerns." HB 20-108 had sought to appropriate $1.4 million to address the remaining 330 employees who had their wages frozen at Step 12.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), author of both bills, told reporters that the source of funding is the casino-generated business gross revenue tax. According to the Senate, this information was not included in the language of both bills.

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Rotary Club loses pioneering member

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan experienced a great loss following the death of one of its longest serving members, Oliver Wayne "Pete" Shilling, who lost his life battling cancer over a week ago.

Rotary Club members were generous in paying tribute to Shilling, saying he will forever be remembered in the hearts of his fellow Rotarians and his friends and family.

One of Shilling's closest friends, business partner, and fellow Rotarian Ivan Ilmov told *Saipan Tribune* that Shilling was a fighter just as much as he was generous.

Ilmov shared that this was actually Shilling's fourth battle with cancer and that Shilling fought as hard as he could.

He also praised Shilling for being also extremely generous when it came to helping the less fortunate. "[He was] one of the brightest, most honest persons on Saipan. He was always ready to help," said Ilmov.

He said that Shilling was a huge supporter of the Rotary International Polio Program, which combats polio around the world by providing vaccines for children.

According to Ilmov, the polio program is one of the biggest Rotary International programs and Shilling was always one of Saipan's biggest advocates. Every year, Shilling would donate to the program.

Shilling was a member of the Rotary Club for over 20 years. He was one of the pioneers of the club here on Saipan and was the first president of the local Rotary Club.

"He was in the club for more than 20 years. He was a member before in Guam and in Palau. All those years, as a Rotarian, he was very generous," said Ilmov.

According to Ilmov, the loss of Shilling will leave a void in all the hearts of the people who knew him.

"We miss him a lot. It's a huge loss for everyone who knew him," he said.

Shilling, 73, is survived by his wife, Lucia Norita Shilling, and four children: Daniel William Shilling, Christina Ruth Shilling, Kimberly Barnes Yamauchi, and Kevin Eric Norita Barnes.

Shilling's siblings, James Shilling and Barbara H. Lynch, also survive him.

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, September 07, 2017 at 6:00pm** on Saipan. The meeting will be held in Giovanni's (Private Room), Hyatt Regency Hotel, Royal Palm Avenue, Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

AGENDA

I.	Meeting Call to Order
II.	Determination of Quorum
III.	Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV.	Review and Adoption of Minutes
V.	Chairman's Report A. Introduction of Guests from FSMB B. FSMB Presentation
VI.	Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
VII.	Announcements A. Next Meeting Date B. Dinner Invitation
VIII.	Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ **Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH**
Chairman

SNILD holds hearing on abandoned, blighted buildings

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation would be holding a joint committee public hearing to obtain comments on a bill that would hold leasees accountable and responsible for abandoned and blighted buildings on their property.

Three of the delegation's committees—the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, Health and Welfare Committee, and the Tourism Committee—would be holding a joint public hearing today at 9:45am at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill to receive opinions on House Local Bill 20-14, authored by Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

HLB 20-14 seeks to hold people listed as the leasee of a property responsible for several aspects in the cleaning up of blighted or abandoned buildings, including maintenance.

"[Blighted, abandoned buildings] detract from the quality of life, as well as the economic opportunities, of those living around them," the bill states. "These types of conditions lower the livability of neighborhoods and can increase crime and calls for emergency services, all of which put additional strains on already taxed local budgets."

According to the Department Public Works, there are currently 150 blighted and abandoned buildings in the CNMI, 80 of which DPW had already condemned.

Condemned buildings are buildings with questions as to its structural integrity and are considered uninhabitable.

Red Cross: Over 100 families still do not have homes after Soudelor

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter has been working closely in collaboration with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Effort in rebuilding houses for over 100 families on Saipan who still do not have homes after the Aug. 2, 2015, devastation of Typhoon Soudelor, according to ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh.

Hirsh said CARE has the financial resources to support the rebuilding process, while construction workers from the U.S. mainland are also here assisting in the recovery efforts.

"We are working with our disaster case managers and, with the support of our local government and federal partners, we are slowly rebuilding those homes," he said.

If it's major damage to the house, Hirsh said they try to help repair the structure. If the house is completely destroyed, they provide resources to rebuild the home completely.

A Category 3 howler, Soudelor was one of the most powerful typhoons ever to hit the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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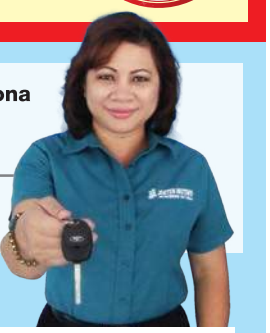

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Joeten group tops $11K in Green Gala sponsorship

In addition to sponsorships from Joeten Motors and Joeten Enterprises, Ace Hardware and Joeten Superstore have also signed up as title and major sponsors, respectively, of the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance's Green Gala, bringing the Joeten Groups total contribution to this year's fundraising efforts to over $11,000.

"Ace Hardware supports the efforts of MINA and is dedicated to island conservation efforts by providing eco-friendly options at their store," said Priscilla Tenorio, president of Ace Hardware.

MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, on behalf of MINA, expressed appreciation for everything that Ace Hardware does to support the community efforts for conservation.

In addition to the contribution of Ace Hardware, Joeten Superstore also presented their valuable contributions for MINA's efforts in this year's fundraising.

The sponsorship of Joeten Motors, Joeten Superstore, Joeten Ace Hardware, and Joeten Enterprises will enhance the offerings of this year's Green Gala silent auction, which includes a seven-piece living room set, FitBit, a Vitamix 5300, a Yamaha generator and other valuable items.

This year's Green Gala promises to be an exciting and fun-filled night, so remember to get your tickets early from MINA board members or by calling the MINA office at 233-7333. ***(PR)***

Priscilla Tenorio, president of Ace Hardware, together with management and staff from Ace Susupe and Gualo Rai, present their participation as a Green Gala title sponsor to Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance board member Somia Quan, MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, and Tasi Watch rangers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KONQER

From Page 1

the inspiration of the course design came to him when he realized that his children did not have the childhood he remembers.

According to Endo, he remembers the fun he used to have in a playground. To him, the playground was where all the children used to be; it was a place to have fun as well as to get active.

The first Konqer event was held in Guam in 2016. It turned out to be a great success so it was decided that the event should be introduced to Palau and now Saipan.

The Saipan event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 9, and will start off with a beach run from the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to the main course at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

The event aims to promote not only wellness, but to also team building. The course is meant to challenge every individual to achieve the goal of completing the course.

Endo is certain that every individual will be able to complete the obstacle course. He said the course was designed to be challenging, but it was also designed to be completed by everyone, whether they are male, female, child, youth, out of shape, and professional athletes. Endo said he has witnessed children complete the course, a 400-lb man complete the course, corporate teams finish the course, and more. According to Endo he even witnessed professional athletes struggle to complete the course.

For the upcoming event, there would be 30 obstacles that include man-made and natural obstacles.

There will be no rules in completing the course. An individual may use anything they need, as long as they complete the course.

Endo said that over 500 participants have already registered for the Saipan KONQER event. This doesn't include the free registrants (14 years old and below).

There will be four categories to chose from—Enduro, completion, business, and sprints.

The entire community is invited to take part in this event as well as tourists. Interested individuals are welcome to sign up online or sign up on the day of the event. Registrants will pay a fee of $75 to participate in KONQER Saipan.

The event will also bring in 80 individuals from other areas that want to compete in Saipan's KONQER event.

The public is also invited to watch. There will be food and a beer garden.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Bill 20-108.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) authored the bill.

According to several members of the Senate, the bill failed to specify where it would get the $1.4 million that would be used to pay about 330 active and inactive government employees who were affected by austerity measures more than 10 years ago.

House floor leader Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Saipan) moved for the recall of the bill yesterday.

According to Maratita's motion, HB 20-108 would be recalled to "make necessary amendments to specify the funding source."

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week issued a statement in support of the intent of the bill that also specified that the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Attorney General's Office is "committed" to make sure the "lump-sum payments to our remaining frozen civil service employees are met."

In a previous Senate session, the chamber almost deadlocked on whether to pass the bill or not despite its failure to specify a source of funds. The bill ultimately passed the Senate.

In order to prevent a repeat of HB 20-108, the Senate amended another of Demapan's appropriations bill that addresses the Commonwealth government's balances owed to the Settlement Fund for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. The House accepted the Senate amendments yesterday.

Totaling to $7.1 million, HB 20-116 was amended by the Senate after about 40 minutes of discussions with House legal counsels John Cool and Joe Taijeron.

The problem with HB 20-116 was also the failure to specify a source of funds. Sens. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) voiced out these concerns during the previous Senate session two weeks ago.

Though it was not specified in both bills, Demapan told the media in previous separate interviews that the source of funding for both bills are the casino-generated business gross revenue tax.

HB 20-116 now heads to the governor for signing, while HB 20-108 would be amended to specify a funding source.

FAA

From Page 1

According to a CPA statement, a Star Marianas aircraft that departed Rota at 4:45pm to Saipan and operated by the inter-island carrier's chief pilot, Capt. Jun Shimada, reported landing gear malfunction after experiencing multiple bird strikes.

This led Shimada to conduct an emergency landing on Runway 24 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 6:10pm.

Shimada was able to land the aircraft safely at the Saipan airport with all its passengers and crew unharmed.

CPA said it responded to an emergency call from a Star Marianas Air aircraft on Aug. 31, 2017, at about 5:50pm.

It said the plane reported faulty landing gear with a total of seven passengers, including the pilot. The plane landed safely with no reported injuries.

In an interview last week, CPA executive director Chris Tenorio was relieved that nothing untoward happened with the Star Marianas aircraft's passenger and crew.

"We are glad that the passengers are safe and sound as that is our main concern," he said.

Currently, the aircraft, a Piper PA-31-350 Chieftain, has been removed from the runway. "The aircraft has been removed and right now we are focused on documenting everything and compiling pictures that were taken of the aircraft," Star Marianas president Shaun Christian said.

According to Christian, a detailed investigation will ensue if the emergency landing was due to unknown causes or mechanical failure, which neither case applies to the incident that happened last week.

"There is nothing to investigate at this point because, as Capt. Shimada reported, the cause of the emergency landing was due to the bird strikes and we have seen blood splatters on the aircraft. The aircraft was hit by multiple birds shortly after taking off and the landing gear was affected while in transit," he added.

Since migratory birds are prevalent at this time of the year, Christian suggested that the CPA might consider looking into Wildlife Hazard Mitigation plans.

Wildlife Hazard Mitigation program helps airports maintain a safe operating environment for aircrafts flying in and out. A Wildlife Hazard Assessment is conducted and helps prepare a Wildlife Hazard Management plan when there is a wildlife strike at an airport and in its air space. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

ROBBERY

From Page 1

The eight male juveniles allegedly conspired to rob a male tourist at the Kanoa Resort beach in Susupe, while an unidentified man attempted to rob the female tourist near Garapan Elementary School.

In the Kanoa Resort beach incident, the eight juveniles were arrested and police were able to recover the victim's wallet with its money and other contents. The victim, a 26-year-old male tourist, was not injured.

In the attempted robbery case in Garapan, the victim, a 24-year-old woman, was treated by medics for minor injuries. The suspect was not arrested.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said that police responded to a robbery case at the Kanoa Resort beach on Monday at 8:21pm. The victim was with his wife and they were watching a fisherman at the beach when one juvenile grabbed the wallet from the hand of the male victim. The suspect then ran toward Susupe Beach Park. The victim and several witnesses recognized that the suspect was seen earlier with seven other male juveniles in the beach.

Police officers later located the eight juveniles near the Sister Remedios preschool in Chalan Kanoa. The descriptions of the eight juveniles matched the descriptions of the eight juveniles seen earlier at Kanoa Resort beach area.

Tarkong said the victim positively identified the juveniles as the same persons at the beach.

Tarkong said the juveniles confessed that they conspired to rob the tourist.

Tarkong said four approached the victim, while the other others acted as lookouts.

He said one suspect admitted to throwing the wallet away after taking its contents.

The eight juveniles were taken into custody.

In the Garapan case, Tarkong said police met with the victim on Monday at 9pm near Garapan Elementary School.

The victim told police that she and her female friend were walking east by the 3 JM Fruit and Vegetable Market across Garapan Elementary School, when the victim felt someone try to pull her purse off her shoulder. She held on to her purse, causing her to be dragged several feet by the suspect. The suspect later released the victim, then ran away. A witness saw the suspect run south on Put Tainobiu Street and enter a tinted dark-colored car.

The suspect drove south on Puti Tainobiu Street. He was described as a male, with short hair, dark skin, shirtless, and had on a pair of khaki short pants.

Tarkong said the CNMI Crime Stoppers Program is seeking the public's help for information about the suspect.

Last week, *koban* police arrested two suspected burglars and two other robbers in separate incidents in Garapan.

Over $2.3M appropriated for Marpi landfill

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last Thursday appropriated over $2.3 million for the construction of Cell 3 of the Marpi landfill.

House Local Bill 20-20, which passed the delegation with amendments, appropriates over $2.3 million from the Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund for the "much needed" Cell 3 of the Marpi landfill. That resolves U.S. Environmental Protection Act concerns about the need to close the landfill's Cell 2 and open Cell 3.

According to Public Law 14-32, Saipan's Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund may only be used for infrastructure improvements such as electrical, water, sewage, road drainage and flood control, and solid waste management.

HLB 20-20 originally appropriated $2 million for the Marpi landfill but Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) offered an amendment to add $380,840 for the construction of solid waste transfer stations in Kagman and other southern areas on Saipan.

"This appropriation will finally bring much needed relief to residents in the southern villages of Saipan and the residents of Kagman and nearby areas by providing a transfer station for them to dispose of their refuse without having to make the long trip to the Marpi landfill," said Demapan, adding that the construction of the transfer stations would "greatly benefit our residents who don't have regular access to regularly transport their refuse to the Marpi landfill."

"…By providing these two transfer stations, we hope to deter illegal dumping within our villages," he said.

A previous letter from Public Works Secretary James A. Ada told the Legislature that the multiple developments all over Saipan ultimately results with more waste.

"It appears that Saipan's economy is moving quickly in a vibrant and positive direction. And with all the proposed hotels in the planning and construction stages, it means more waste will be generated from [construction and designs], tourism, and guests. Eventually, [the trash] would end up at the landfill," said Ada.

According to Ada's letter, Cell 1 of the Marpi landfill has reached its final stage and there is a desperate need to expand to Cell 2. However, before Cell 2 could be opened up, Cell 3 must first be lined to prevent the migration of leachate or contaminants from reaching clean underground water.

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Home detention for alleged leader of illegal workers' group modified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court allowed yesterday a small change in the home detention of Wencai Guo, one of five indicted for allegedly harboring illegal Chinese workers who worked on the proposed casino and resort of Pacific Imperial International CNMI LLC in Garapan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Guo's release conditions for Sept. 5 to 14, 2017, to be modified so he could be out and about with his wife.

After that period, Manglona said, Guo shall return to full home detention.

The judge ordered the defendant to submit to an interview with the U.S. Probation Office yesterday, Tuesday, along with an interpreter to be briefed on the conditions of his release and other requirements.

Guo's counsel, Robert T. Torres, informed the court that Guo's spouse will be visiting Guo from Sept. 3 to 14.

Torres said the U.S. government has indicated it would agree to the temporary modification, as long as there is a daily curfew from 8pm to 8am.

Last April, the court allowed Guo's release to a third party custodian plus a secured bond of $10,000.

Guo and Xiufang Qi, the other alleged leader of the second group of Chinese workers at the casino/resort project, are from Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd.

Qi and Guo were stopped from leaving the CNMI at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last April 5. The two were allegedly bound for China.

The other defendants are MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao, Beilida Overseas president and director Hui Lu, and Beilida's Hongwei Ma.

A jury trial is currently scheduled on Oct. 31, 2017.

A separate indictment charged MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao with harboring illegal aliens.

Of the five indicted, only Lu has yet to be arrested.

The indictment alleges that on March 8 through 22, 2017, Ma, Lu, and Guo harbored an illegal alien, Yuanhou Hu, by shielding him from detection and which resulted in Hu's death.

Hu, a Chinese national, died after falling from a scaffold at the construction site of the Imperial Pacific casino and resort project last March 22.

On Feb. 7 through March 22, 2017, Ma, Lu, Guo, and Qi allegedly harbored six illegal aliens.

A separate indictment alleges that beginning on Aug. 1, 2016, and continuing until March 31, 2017, Zhao harbored 15 illegal aliens.

MCC International was the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific. Beilida was one of the subcontractors of the project.

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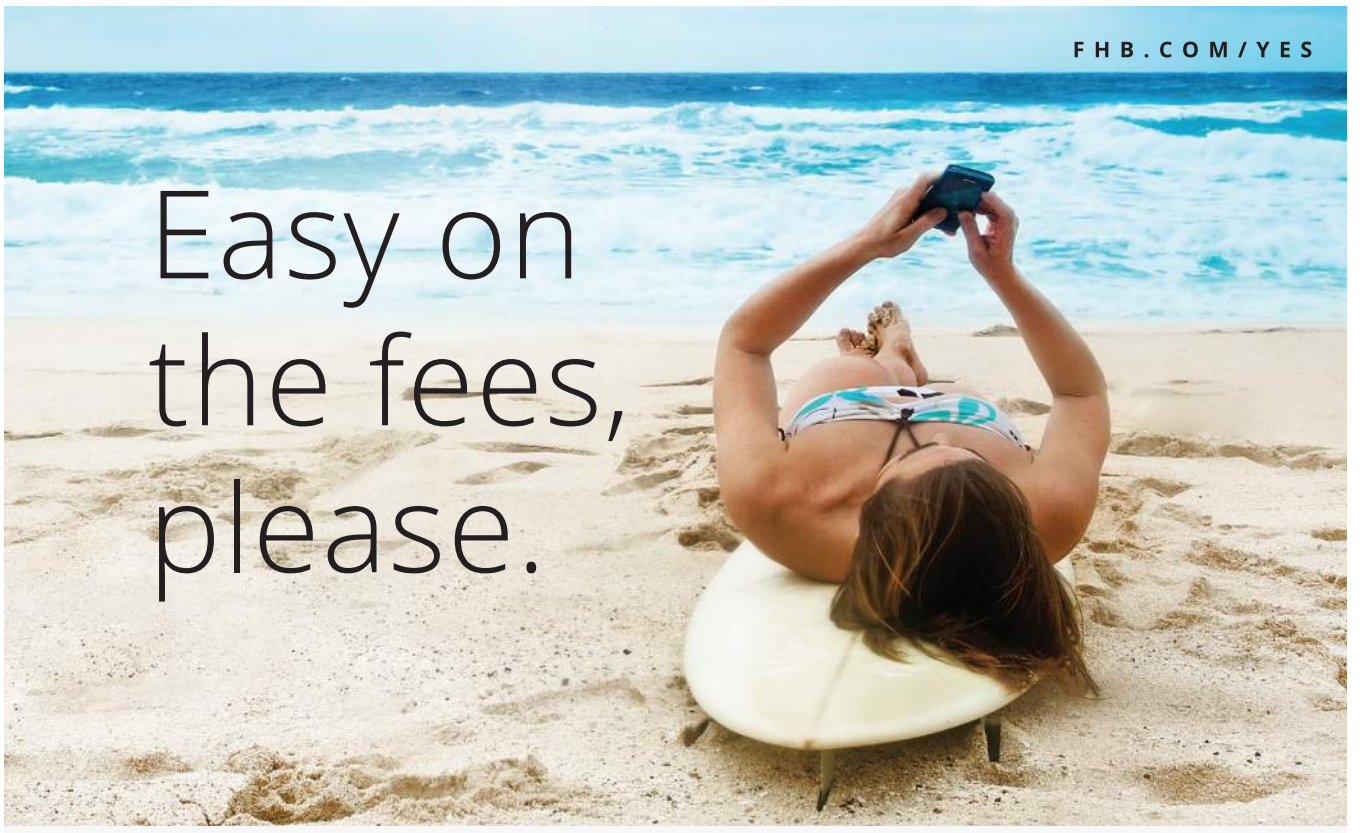
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1 The minimum deposit to open an account is $100.00(or just $5 with Direct Deposit). Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. Business and corporate accounts do not qualify for this offer. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. No minimum balance required to avoid a monthly service charge. Miscellaneous fees and service charges do apply (e.g., insufficient funds or non-FHB ATM transaction charges). Receive a $10 statement credit when you open a new personal checking account and complete 10 debt card purchases or more in 30 days of account opening. Please allow 6-8 weeks after your qualified debit card purchases to receive your statement credit. Limit of one $10 credit per offer or account. Offer expires October 31, 2017.
2 Does not apply to access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. Optional Online Banking Features may incur additional fees. See Terms & Conditions of FHB Online Services for more details. Mobile Banking: You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.

National recognition for Kagman health center

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Kagman Community Health Center has been recognized nationally for how it takes care of its patients.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance bestowed its Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition to the center yesterday for "using evidence-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long–term, participative relationships."

The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home is a model of primary care that combines teamwork and information technology to improve care, improve patients' experience of care and reduce costs. Medical homes foster ongoing partnerships between patients and their personal clinicians, instead of approaching care as the sum of episodic office visits. Each patient's care is overseen by clinician-led care teams that coordinate treatment across the healthcare system. Research shows that medical homes can lead to higher quality and lower costs, and can improve patient and provider reported experiences of care.

"NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition raises the bar in defining high-quality care by emphasizing access, health information technology and coordinated care focused on patients," said NCQA president Margaret E. O'Kane. "Recognition shows that [Kagman Community Health Center] has the tools, systems, and resources to provide its patients with the right care, at the right time."

To earn recognition, which is valid for three years, Kagman Community Health Center demonstrated the ability to meet the program's key elements, embodying characteristics of the medical home.

NCQA standards are aligned with the joint principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home established with the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Osteopathic Association.

NCQA is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA's website (ncqa.org) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.

Saipan ukulele group to perform in Japan

Father-son entertainers Larry and Kui Lee have been invited to perform at the Funabashi Hawaiian Festival in Chiba, Japan, on Sept. 16. This is the first time that their ukulele band, known as Da Kine, will be featured at an international venue.

"We are very excited and honored to represent the Marianas at this awesome international cultural event," said lead ukulele player and singer Kui Lee.

The annual Funabashi Hawaiian Festival, now on its seventh year, showcases Hawaiian musical and dance performances on six different stages, Hawaiian food and drinks, numerous cultural products, and the "Aloha spirit."

The event is held at the Funabashi Port Water Park.

One of the event organizers, Yusuke Saito, said, "This is the biggest event in [the] Chiba Prefecture and we expect to see about 20,000 visitors at the Festival."

Larry Lee and his son, Kui, have been performing professionally on Saipan for several years and have been teaching ukulele lessons since 2008.

Da Kine is now on its second year, performing at the popular Surf Club restaurant in Chalan Kanoa. The band currently performs there every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, from 6pm to 8pm.

Lee is the co-founder and co-organizer of the annual Marianas Ukulele Festival.

Saipan will be hosting the 3rd Marianas Ukulele Festival on Oct. 21, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Larry Lee and his son, Kui, form the band Da Kine, which is now on its second year.

BankGuam declares Q3 dividends

BankGuam Holding Co. announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 5.5 percent fixed rate/floating rate noncumulative preferred Stock, Series A, at its board's meeting last Aug. 28, 2017. The dividends will be paid on Sept. 29, 2017, to shareholders of record as of Sept. 15, 2017.

BankGuamHolding Co. president and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "I am happy to report that we remain profitable for this quarter, allowing us to provide a return on our shareholder's investment and that the book value for our shares has increased." ***(PR)***

DPS, DPL in talks to establish San Roque substation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is just waiting for the Department of Public Lands so it could acquire a piece of land where DPS can put up a police substation in San Roque, DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero said.

In an interview Friday, Guerrero said the planned San Roque substation, which is similar to the *koban* substation in Garapan, will cover the northern section of the island such as San Roque, Tanapag, As Matuis, and Marpi.

Koban is a Japanese term to refer to a small neighborhood police substation.

Guerrero said they are now working with the details about their agreement with DPL for the San Roque land or property so they can open the substation as soon as possible.

He said San Roque and Marpi are very isolated, but are heavy tourism areas.

Next year, there are plans to build more hotels in the northern part of the island so there's a need to have a police presence in that area, he said.

The target for the opening of the San Roque substation is any day now or as soon as DPL gives DPS a piece of land.

In reference to recent arrests of burglars and robbers in Garapan by police stationed at the Garapan *koban,* Guerrero said he had beefed up the substation with more officers.

He said having more officers in Garapan contributed to the *koban*'s success.

The commissioner said they already opened a substation in Kagman and in Chalan Kanoa, and that hopefully if they get more personnel they can open substations in Koblerville and in Dandan as well.

High court affirms sex assault conviction

On Sept. 5, 2017, the Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Commonwealth v. Melvin Monkeya*, 2017 MP 7. The high court affirmed Monkeya's conviction.

Monkeya was charged with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree. The charge arose out of allegations that sometime in November 2008, Monkeya engaged in sexual penetration with a minor who was a household member of Monkeya's, was under 16 years of age, and to whom he occupied a position of authority. Jury trial began on Dec. 2, 2013, and Monkeya was convicted on Dec. 4, 2013.

On appeal, Monkeya argued the high court should reverse his conviction for six reasons: (1) the trial court improperly denied his request for expert assistance; (2) the trial court erred by failing to include a cut-off date in a jury instruction regarding "no proof of exact time"; (3) the trial court erred by failing to reiterate jury instructions at the close of evidence; (4) the prosecution committed reversible *Doyle* error by eliciting testimony commenting on Monkeya's invocation of his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent; (5) the use of facts not in evidence during closing arguments was prosecutorial misconduct that prejudiced him; and (6) these errors, even if individually harmless, in the aggregate materially affected the verdict.

The Supreme Court found the trial court did not abuse its discretion when it denied Monkeya's request for expert assistance because he failed to make a particularized showing of need, the standard the high court established in *Commonwealth v. Perez*, 2006 MP 24.

The high court further found the "no proof of exact time" jury instruction was not in error given the circumstances of this case and the contents of the instruction. While the high court concluded the trial court's failure to read substantive jury instructions at the close of trial, the prosecution's questioning of the lead detective regarding Monkeya's silence upon arrest, and the prosecution's statements in closing arguments were all errors, it concluded the errors, both individually and in the aggregate, were harmless and did not warrant reversing Monkeya's conviction.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme17.html.

For further information, contact the Supreme Court at 236-9800. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WOUNDED WARRIOR FELLOW

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), center, standing, introduces Wounded Warrior congressional fellow Randy Takai Johnson, on Sablan's left, at the Veterans Benefits Workshop and Claims Clinic on Saipan. Johnson began his two-year Fellowship with the Marianas congressional office this week. Standing with Sablan and Johnson are Veterans Benefits Administration representatives Eric Gaskin and Kalani Echang, who conducted the workshop. Not pictured here but also present at the workshop was Commonwealth Military/Veterans Affairs executive director Oscar C. Torres, whose office works closely with the VBA to assist veterans with their claims. The VBA event was requested by Sablan, who is a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. In mid-August Sablan also organized events on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to make sure that veterans and health care providers were informed about the Veterans Choice program. Using Choice, veterans can receive services from community health providers, rather than waiting for care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Iakopo named to head Civil Military Liaison Office

Stanley Tapuaialupe Iakopo has been appointed executive director of the Civil Military Liaison Office under the Office of the Governor.

The Civil Military Liaison Office is the CNMI clearinghouse for all federal initiatives associated with the Department of Defense. In order to ensure a collaborative discussion with DOD about its proposed military actions, the office ensures that the Commonwealth's interests are represented, while enhancing public outreach and awareness within the community.

"Stanley's extensive military experience and passion for our community makes him an ideal fit for this position," said Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres in appointing Iakopo. "He will help implement a constructive and cooperative dialogue between us and the Department of Defense about our environmental and military needs. He will be a great addition to our team and our community as we move forward."

A former environmental health officer and procurement and supply director for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Iakopo has served in the U.S. Air Force for the last 16 years in several capacities.

His role at CMLO is to work with all agencies on the policy and operational side, while efficiently coordinating between the local government and DoD/federal components.

"I'm here to facilitate the interface between our local government and military, while ensuring Gov. Torres' views and our people's interests are acknowledged and heard. I look forward to serving Gov. Torres and his administration in this capacity, as we foster a more engaging and meaningful dialogue between the military and our people," he said.

Iakopo

Iakopo was an air transportation manager in Guam from 2001 to 2008 and was an active duty Air Force reserve recruiter from 2008 to 2015, based in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In addition to his new role, he is currently in the Air Force reserve for the U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific.

He also has experience in the CNMI Public School System as a speech and language pathologist from 2003 to 2004, a high school teacher in Kagman High School from 2004 to 2006, and a special education teacher from 2006 to 2008.

He has associate degrees in nursing, physical therapy, and human resources, a bachelor's degree in speech and pathology and audiology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a master's degree in education from Framingham State University. He is also looking to finish his Ph.D. in education from Grand Canyon University by completing his dissertation later this year.

With his appointment, Iakopo joins Bruce M. Camacho in the Civil Military Liaison Office. Camacho is an accomplished U.S. Army veteran, who served as a first lieutenant from 2011 to 2016. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in public administration and military science from the University of Guam. ***(PR)***

JRM, community discuss natural, cultural resources management

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Chatfield met with community members and representatives of Prutehi Litekyan yesterday to discuss concerns about recently announced construction plans. 34th Guam Legislature Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz attended the meeting as an observer.

"It's important we listen to community opinions and continue open and transparent dialogue," said Chatfield. "Close coordination with the government of Guam, environmental agencies and the public enabled us to design and plan facilities that balance national defense with natural and cultural resources management."

Since the beginning of planning efforts for the Marine relocation to Guam, the Department of the Navy has worked to address many concerns including access to the Guam Wildlife Refuge Ritidian Unit, and preservation of natural and cultural resources.

With the award of construction contracts this summer to support the Marine Corps relocation, the DoN has made significant steps necessary to meet the timeline required to begin movement of Marines to Guam anticipated for the mid-2020's. ***(PR)***

September is Cultural Heritage Month

The people of the Marianas greatly value the diverse culture, customs, and traditions of the islands and have dedicated the month of September to celebrate those values. It is, however, that high regard for culture that the islands have also made the preservation of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures the islands' priority.

In line with this, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog have designated September as Cultural Heritage Month, in a proclamation signing that recognizes the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures.

The entire month of September will also recognize familial heritage, traditional chiefs, and traditional clans (*samwool* and *maga'lahi*) to reconnect people of Northern Marianas descent with their ancestral roots.

The month will be filled with ceremonies that aim to recognize ancient events and ancient heroes that were talked of in Chamorro and Carolinian folklores.

A ceremony will be held to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the 13 fishermen who were lost at sea, and to honor Chief Aghurubw, the ancient hero chief of the *maga'lahi* and *samwool* clans. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-027

ROOF REPLACEMENT AT DRUM STORAGE AREA POWER PLANT NO. 1 SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of roofing material at the Drum Storage Berm, Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the removal of corroded roofing and its replacement with new material. Electrical work for installation of lighting and power outlets at the berm is also requested for this task.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-027 Roof Replacement Drum Storage Area Power Plant No. 1 Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 29, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-037

CONSULTANCY SERVICES - REPLACEMENT OF 1 ENGINE SYSTEM - SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Consultancy Services including procurement support, project management, engineering and design services of the Replacement of 1 Engine System (No. 8 –10 to13 MW, capacity) at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Consultant shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of verifiable experience and a track record of designing, modification and installation of diesel fuel or dual fuel power plants, among other attributes noted in the RFP documents.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission CPUC.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal and hence the attendance of the pre-proposal meeting and site visit is mandatory.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-17-037– Consultancy Services - Replacement of 1 Engine System"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 20, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email william.gilmore@cugov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

President proposes $11.7B budget for Interior in FY 2018

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump is proposing an $11.7-billion fiscal year 2018 budget for the Department of the Interior.

The President's budget allows Interior to carry out its core mission of responsible multiple-use of public lands in a way that both conserves America's iconic landscapes and supports responsible resource development. The President's budget prioritizes public lands infrastructure by increasing funding for national parks to address their deferred maintenance backlog. The budget also prioritizes responsible American energy production on federal lands and national security.

"President Trump promised the American people he would cut wasteful spending and make the government work for the taxpayer again, and that's exactly what this budget does," said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. "Working carefully with the President, we identified areas where we could reduce spending and also areas for investment, such as addressing the maintenance backlog in our national parks and increasing domestic energy production on federal lands. The budget also allows the department to return to the traditional principles of multiple-use management to include both responsible natural resource development and conservation of special places. Being from the West, I've seen how years of bloated bureaucracy and D.C.-centric policies hurt our rural communities. The President's budget saves taxpayers by focusing program spending, shrinking bureaucracy, and empowering the front lines."

Additionally, the budget requests $123.9 million of discretionary Department of Defense appropriations to be transferred to the Department of the Interior to support enactment of the 2010 Compact Review Agreement with Palau. The Palau Compact is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy.

"The territories and Freely Associated States are absolutely critical to the strategic readiness of the United States, and they are part of the fabric of who we are as fellow Americans," said Zinke. "President Trump's budget proposal makes it abundantly clear that these lands, often on the front lines of escalating tensions, are under our protection and serve vital importance."

The Department of the Interior oversees one-fifth of the nation's land and the entire Outer Continental Shelf. The department is charged with overseeing energy development on federal lands and waters, grazing allotments and timber sales, water conservation and delivery, upholding tribal trust responsibilities, conservation of wildlife and habitat, and maintaining access for recreation in national parks and other public lands, among other priorities.

The fiscal year 2018 budget includes the President's continued focus on the following priorities:

■ America First Energy: $791 million to power America's future

■ Onshore: $189 million with increases to strengthen oil and gas and coal programs by improving the application and permitting processes, and supporting related rights of way.

■ Offshore: $343 million includes a $10 million increase to update the Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Plan.

■ Renewables: $78 million to keep pace with anticipated project interest for renewable energy development.

■ American Infrastructure: Investing in Interior's $300 billion portfolio

■ $766 million to address the $11.3 billion deferred maintenance backlog in our national parks, which accounts for 73 percent of Interior's $15 billion deferred maintenance backlog.

■ Invests over $1 billion in safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources throughout the western United States.

■ $4.4 billion for America's land: Increasing access, back to the basics on stewardship

■ Addresses adaptive management challenges and provides $101 million for work on invasive species.

■ Directs funds to maintain the lands we have, rather than purchasing land we cannot afford.

■ Includes $90 million in mandatory funds to support Land and Water Conservation Fund State Grants.

■ Legislative Priorities: Saving Taxpayers $5.8 billion (reforms Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act payments; opens the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for development; cancels a portion of Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act balances; reauthorizes Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act; reauthorizes the Recreation Fee Program. ***(DOI)***

Youth Leo Club donates school supplies

The Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club donated school supplies (notebooks, rulers, pens, sharpeners, pencil cases, fillers papers, folders, and erasers) to 30 students of Marianas High School last Aug. 31, 2017, as their first project for the Worldwide Week Service for Youth.

Giving is caring and a little help for some students would go a long way, said Leo president Rhose Ann Prado. She extended thanks to "the great support" of their sponsoring club, the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club.

Young people are the future of service—and Lions. That's why engaging young people in service is such an important part of the new global service framework and the goal of serving 200 million people per year by 2021 through Lions Clubs International.

When you engage young people in service, you do more than inspire them to get involved in their community, said Lion officer and club adviser Mario Mayuga, You give them a chance to change the world and the community that they belong," he said.

The Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club currently has 28 members and still welcomes students who are interested to join the club. Call or text Prado at 989-9416, Mayuga at 285-1021, Eden Mercado at 989-2416, or club advisers Eden Mercado, Victoria Camama, or Nina Alvarez. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club donates school supplies to 30 students of Marianas High School last Aug. 31, 2017, as their first project for the Worldwide Week Service for Youth.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 6, 2000

IG gears up for Saipan project audit

The United States interior department's Inspector General is gearing up for a thorough audit of the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project, in response to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's request for a full accounting of the funds earmarked for the undertaking. In an interview, CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios disclosed the Inspector General's Office on Guam is conducting the audit investigation of the Saipan seaport project, which was marred with controversies due to alleged re-channeling of funds.

Bill regulating commercial use of lagoon faces strong opposition

Boat owners and tour operators came in full force to a public hearing held yesterday by the House transportation committee to oppose legislation that will regulate sea vessels' traffic within Saipan's western lagoon. They pleaded anew their case against the management of the Outer Cove Marina over safety and fees, turning the hearing into an extension of last week's Senate oversight into the controversy. But Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, chair of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, told reporters after the hearing the panel would press passage of the proposal once it has been fine-tuned.

September 6, 2004

Govt tried to grant foreign students jobs in CNMI

The Attorney General's Office tried to allow foreign students to work in the CNMI but eventually dropped the plan because it would be inconsistent with another law, acting immigration director Antonio P. Sablan said in his testimony in federal court Friday. According to Sablan the Attorney General's Office, which oversees the immigration division, drafted an emergency regulation that would allow foreign students to come in and work in the Commonwealth. He said he was personally against the plan, which was introduced in early August 2003, because it was contrary to the existing regulation. At the same time, he said that it would pose a big immigration problem for the CNMI. During direct examination by assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Smith, Sablan also cited the CNMI's moratorium on the entry of new foreign workers for certain job categories.

'Fate of Saipan casino hinges on Guam vote'

Saipan may be pressured to pass its own casino gaming law if voters approve an initiative that would legalize controlled casino gambling on Guam this November, according to a Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino executive. Tinian Dynasty general manager Tom Liu said that at this time, he does not see a casino industry on Guam having a major impact on the operations of the CNMI's only casino gaming facility. The Tinian Dynasty primarily targets the Chinese tourism market, who Liu noted could not visit and gamble on Guam without a U.S. visa. Tinian's advantage over Guam lies on the CNMI's more relaxed immigration policy, as well as its direct charter flights from China, he said.

September 6, 2005

Fund opposes exempting PSS from rate hike

The NMI Retirement Fund is opposing the passage of a bill that aims to exempt the Public School System from the rate increase in retirement contribution beginning fiscal year 2006. "We don't favor that. I don't think the Senate will pass it if they look at it more closely. We only have one system of retirement here. If you give one agency such an exemption, all others will follow suit, and what happens to the Retirement Fund? It will suffer," said Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes. He noted that the House of Representatives passed the measure, House Bill 14-369, without consulting with the Fund.

Group Health privatization still uncertain

The privatization of the government's group health insurance program remains uncertain this year amidst unresolved points of discussion between parties.

Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said yesterday that government consultant Karen Bauder would advise the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees in November this year "whether to privatize or not." He said the health insurance program will "mostly likely be privatized" but "there is a possibility it may not."

He said that if the current proposer, Select Care, agrees to the consultant's conditions, privatization would go on. The Fund has been extending HPMR's contract for over a year now. HPMR's three year contract with the Fund originally expired in July 2004.

26 govt employees recognized in Labor Day festivity

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog sign a proclamation declaring September as Commonwealth Preparedness Month at the start of the Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base on Friday. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A total of 26 employees across the entire spectrum of the CNMI government were recognized last Friday, when CNMI government agencies gathered at the Garapan Fishing Base in celebration of Labor Day.

According to Labor Day committee chair Eli Cabrera, the annual tradition has become an important event to recognize the hard work of every government employee, even if it is held only once a year.

Certain individuals were chosen from each department within the CNMI government to receive the "2017 Outstanding Department/Agency Employee of the Year" award. The awardees were given plaques and cash prizes.

Each agency chose one individual from their pool of employees to receive the award.

For the Department of Commerce, the employee chosen for the award was enforcement officer John Herman Hosono of the Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control Division.

Merced Muña won the award for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

For the Department of Corrections, the employee chosen to receive the award was corrections officer Benjamin Tagabuel, while Department of Finance accountant Mariana Tomokane was her agency's employee of the year.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Department of Labor chose fire crew supervisor Manuel Cabrera and enforcement technician Dennis Cabrera, respectively.

For the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the award was given to administrative assistant Frank Ada, while surveyor Joseph Aldan was the winner for the Department of Public Lands.

Police officer Rhonda John and supply management officer Juan Tomokane won the award for the Department of Public Safety and Department of Public Works, respectively.

For the Commonwealth Development Authority, the award was given to loan officer Abigail Atalig, while administrative officer Rita Sablan was the winner for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' legal counsel, Wesley Bogden, and community coordinator Lucia Aldan were the employees of the year for the Governor's Office, while executive assistant Leticia Norma Palacios won the award for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

At the Legislative Bureau, the award was given to legislative assistant Cameron Nicolas, while over at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the award was given to administrative assistant Jason Reyes.

At the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the award was given to computer specialist Xerxes Mangarero, while marketing specialist Laura Hsai won the award for the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Administrative assistant Becky Manalo was the winner for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp, while personnel specialist Sebastian Deleon Guerrero won the award for the Office of Personnel Management.

At the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the award was given to administrative technician Victoria Mafnas.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission bestowed the award on executive assistant Ruth Ann Sakisat.

At the Office of the Attorney General, the award was given to investigator Urbano Babauta, while plant nursery assistant Antonieto Matteo and Mildred Camacho were employees of the year at the Saipan Mayor's Office and Scholarship Office, respectively.

Each year, government agencies get together to celebrate the Labor Day holiday and practice sportsmanship through a series of competitions.

Cabrera said the Labor Day tradition is simply a day dedicated to the enjoyment of every government employee and commemorates civil servants' hard work in serving the public.

Cabrera added that the day is a sort of incentive to motivate employees to continue to strive to provide the best quality service to the community, like they have been doing for years.

Cabrera's message to each individual was to enjoy the day as much as they possibly could and he also thanked government for recognizing the labor that their employees put into their jobs every day.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have a general membership meeting today, Sept. 6, at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort. The luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting starts promptly at noon.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman will talk about the Prevailing Wage Survey and update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan. Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda will share information about the Japan Exchange and Teaching program.

We will also launch a new project of the Saipan Young Professionals Committee, which will engage the entire community in enhancing the lives of the youth. ***(SCC)***

Scholarship Office closed on Thursday

The CNMI Scholarship Office will be temporarily closed on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017, for Staff Professional Development Day. Business will resume on Friday, Sept. 8, 2017. Email supporting documents to awards@cnmischolarship.net. ***(PR)***

Military training at W-517, Guam waters

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 and in waters near Guam within a five-mile nautical radius of the following coordinates 13° 10" 48'N/144° 11" 24'E today, Sept. 6, from 1pm to 4pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Military training at Agat Bay, W-517, Orote Point

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay within the following coordinates: 13° 23"N/144° 35"E during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 6, from 3pm to 8pm
- Sept. 7, from 1pm to 6pm

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 6, from 10:30am to 10pm
- Sept. 8, from 9am to 3pm

Training will also take place at Orote Point on Sept. 6 from noon to 4pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Surviving suicide loss at Sept. grief support group

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

In honor of Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month, we will have a special presentation by a guest speaker on the topic of surviving suicide loss. Anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide is encouraged to attend.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(TCF)***

Veterans benefits outreach

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a veterans benefits outreach on Sept. 8, 2017, from 9am to 3pm, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. This will be a one-on-one outreach. Kalani Echang, legal administrative specialist, will be available to answer questions and take your claims. For an appointment call Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. All veterans, family members, and veteran widowers are encouraged to avail to their services. ***(PR)***

CNMI Scholarship deadline for NMC's PLA Program extended

The CNMI Scholarship Office has extended the deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Prior Learning Assessment program to Sept. 8, 2017. Students who would like to apply for financial aid for NMC's PLA program can submit a scholarship application to the CNMI Scholarship Office in Capitol Hill no later than Sept. 8, 2017. For more information, contact Raymond Muna by calling 237-6746 or emailing raymond.muna@marianas.edu. Additional information is also available at marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Philippine e-passports now ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with honorary consul Eli Arago in the CNMI, is now releasing new passports to those who renewed their passport last July 10,11,12 and 13, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1pm is break time). Bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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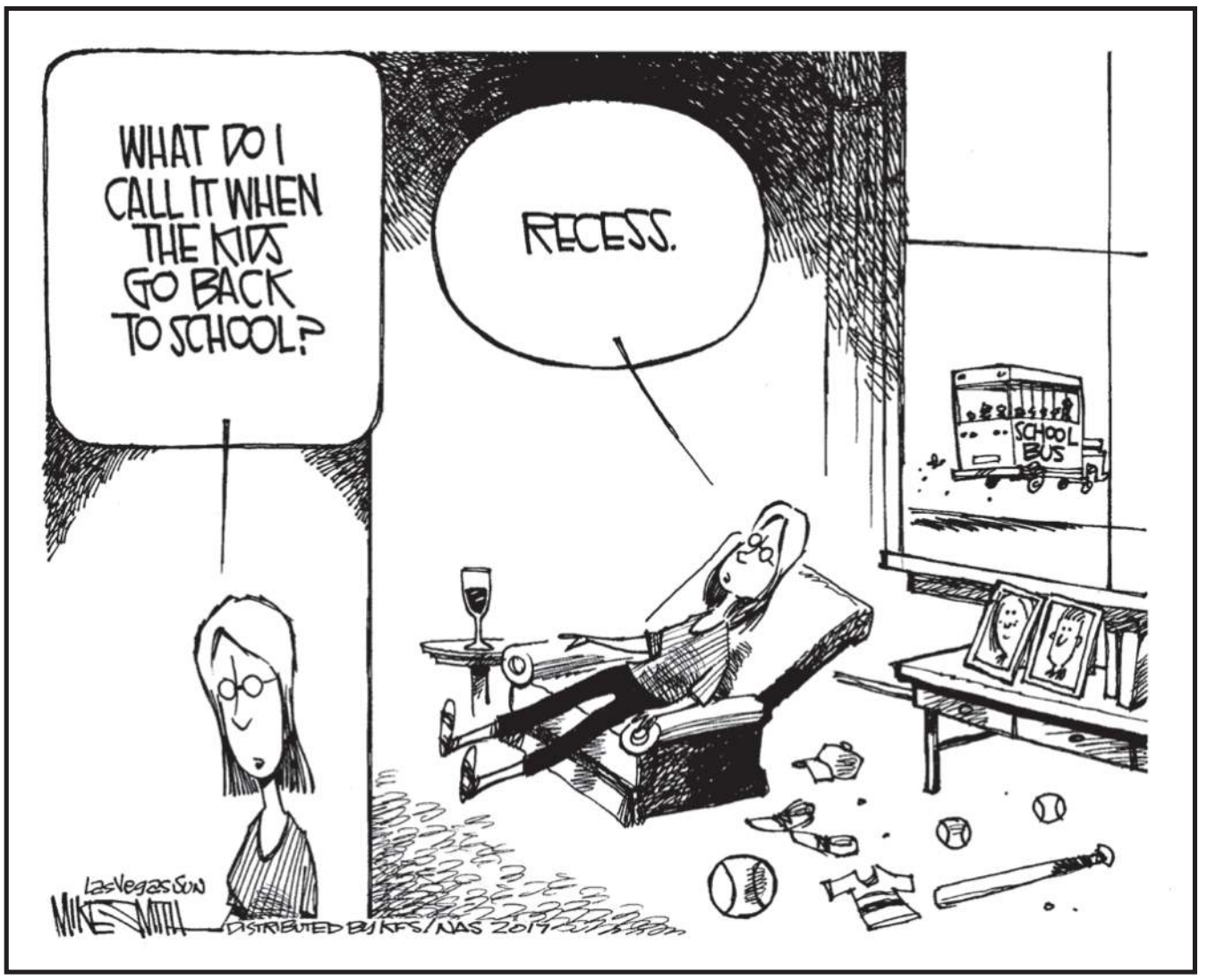


EDITORIAL

Houston shows the misplaced national priorities

The spectacle of Houston, America's fourth-largest city, underwater and partially in ruins should serve as a sharp wake-up call to America in terms of the challenges it identifies and presents.

First, it doesn't matter whether one believes that climate change is human-produced, at least in part, and thus subject to being mitigated, or not. The fact of the matter is that America is showing itself catastrophically vulnerable to what nature seemingly increasingly is getting up to. There was Hurricane Andrew in Florida, Katrina in New Orleans and now Harvey in Houston and Louisiana. Something clearly needs to be done for America's Southeast.

That raises the question of whether America wants to shift its priorities and start spending money on fixing our infrastructure or adjusting it to meet imminent future challenges—or whether it wants to continue spending on endless wars and nation-building in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Should it be building to try to assure the stability of the Ashraf Ghani government in Afghanistan and the Haider al-Abadi regime in Iraq or getting rid of Bashar Assad's rule in Syria? Or should it be fixing the water supply in Flint, Mich., and New York City's subway system?

There is waste and foolishness in our actual responses to disasters. A shocking amount of the money of the Federal Emergency Management Agency gets spent on rebuilding dwellings and businesses more than once in exposed areas. One element in a new look at America's vulnerability to storms, floods and other natural disasters should be on seeing to it that areas in danger don't get rebuilt as if the danger were over.

Apart from the major review of America's priorities that the disaster in Houston demands, there will also be the nearer-to-hand challenge to the federal government to somehow get past its absurd gridlock. Money must be found and voted to deal with the Houston challenge. But the Republicans and the Democrats, Congress and the president, must also pass a budget, raise the national debt ceiling, and at least begin work on what is left of President Donald Trump's agenda, including, particularly in light of what is happening in the Southeast, the big infrastructure bill he pledged.

If nothing else, Americans' focus on the tragedy in Houston, and their generous response to the needs of the suffering people there, should make their tolerance of more wrangling about health care and money-fueled lobbying about a new tax law run thin. The country has much bigger problems at home than North Korea's Kim Jong Un, migration to Europe and keeping American Navy ships from running into other ships. Because of misplaced priorities, things at home are in much worse shape than they should be. Dealing with the problems at home is not impossible, at all, but it will require a larger vision of our country on the part of our ostensible leaders.

(c)2017 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

While Texas flooded, the critics went after Melania's shoes

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

"Arma virumque cano" is the first full sentence I learned in Latin. It's the opening line to Virgil's "Aeneid" and means "I sing of arms and the man."

Clearly, I'm not Virgil, even after four years of high school Latin and an award from a classical society for my epic rewrite of the "Fall of Pompei." Epically bad, that is.

So I will narrow my horizons for this column: I speak of feet and the woman.

The feet belong to the woman who is married to the president and they are by all accounts quite lovely, especially when encased in stratospherically high heels. You guessed it, I'm referring to Stilettogate.

In a week when Americans were fighting for their lives in dark water and a city drowned before our very eyes, some people thought it was appropriate to focus attention on FLOTUS' choice of footwear when boarding a plane that would take her to Houston to survey the damage.

Initially, I thought it was just the usual mad twitterings of the mad twits on Facebook, people (usually women in this kind of thing) who are cyber mean girls. They try to disguise their hostility to President Trump and his wife behind concern for "decency, morality, compassion" but are generally incapable of keeping the masks on their faces for very long. Eventually, the lizards behind the botoxed facades peep through, and we see from their venomous comments how petty they truly are. I suppose the dye in those pink crochet hats was toxic and seeped through to the cerebral cortex.

But these folk can be blocked and deleted. They are the rotten peanuts at the back of the gallery, unimportant and uninformed. The people who disappointed me were the adults who should have known better, journalists and public figures with an obligation to focus their energies on the victims of Hurricane Harvey and not on the First Lady's fashion sense. This was serious stuff, and anyone who thought that ruminating on Melania Trump's choice of shoes was appropriate is nothing more than a pathetic rube, right up there with the critics who made fun of Michelle Obama's upper arm strength.

There is a time and a place for nitpicking about the first family, and most decent people understand that the agonizing days of a natural disaster do not fall anywhere within those parameters. While I didn't expect the partisan chatter to go silent even while Houstonians were still standing on their roofs begging to be rescued, I did expect that the subject matter of the debates would be political, consequential and relevant. I think we can all agree that the height of Melania's heels doesn't satisfy any of those metrics.

The Washington Post's Robin Givhan attacked FLOTUS for using the Harvey trip as an opportunity to show how different she is from the rest of the unwashed masses. "Trump is the kind of woman who refuses to pretend that her feet will, at any point, ever be immersed in cold, muddy, bacteria-infested Texas water," Givhan wrote. "She is the kind of woman who may listen empathetically to your pain, but she knows that you know that she is not going to experience it. So why pretend?"

Why pretend, indeed. Givhan and her ilk have Melania's number. When forced to acknowledge that Mrs. Trump had changed into sneakers on the plane and toured the devastation sans stilettos, the Pulitzer Prize winner sniped, "This was just a costume change for another fashion moment." Oh yes, they gave this chick the big prize for a reason; she's not only a writer, she's a psychic. She knows exactly what Melania was thinking.

Vanity Fair columnist Kenzie Bryant opined that it might not be Melania's fault: "Have we confirmed whether or not her foot is part stiletto? That someone in the early aughts, exhausted by the whole putting shoes on and taking shoes off rigmarole, she just installed a five-inch steel rod in her heel? Can someone check, please?"

Give that woman a Pulitzer too!

To their credit, some celebrities fought back, including Boy George, who said "I'm officially against Melania hating!" Who knew that the guy who wears more eyeliner than I do would turn out to be the classiest one in the room?

Bottom line: I'm tired of pretending that the attacks on Melania Trump are anything more than the snobbery of enlightened liberal ladies, all of whom must be wearing nice, comfortable shoes.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We should stop punishing the poor and claiming it's for their own good

Before there was demonizing of Muslims, Latino immigrants and other minorities, refugees, transgender people and the press, shame and blame were leveled most often on America's poor.

That hasn't changed. State governments continue to target public assistance recipients by lowering subsidies, tightening eligibility criteria or cutting people off benefits. Only the conversation has been re-framed from dismissing them as "welfare queens" to patronizing them with the supposed tough-love approach.

That's what the state of Kansas has done to 17,000 people since 2011, declaring it was for their own good. And now they have a study by the conservative Foundation for Government Accountability to justify it.

A column that ran recently in *USA Today*, "The poor are better off without welfare ... ," touted its findings and employed both the mean-spirited rhetoric and the false narrative of past and present welfare foes. It started by suggesting there may have been merit to a literary quote about welfare recipients as "lazy whore(s)" and "deadbeats" who "buy liquor and cell phone coverage with our tax money."

I don't know the author, Christian Schneider, but given his laudatory depiction of Kansas' cuts, it would have been nice if he had actually spoken to past recipients to see if they really feel better off.

But then, the long-term unemployed have been rendered perhaps the most voiceless group in society, making them easier to dehumanize in public policy debates. We blame them rather than a lack of decent jobs, training or support systems for single parents, or systemic exclusion or discrimination in the work force.

Bill Clinton's 1996 federal welfare overhaul replaced the old Aid to Families with Dependent Children with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, using block grants to states and making public assistance temporary. It prevented states from granting welfare benefits for more than two years at a time, and imposed a lifetime cap of five. It also imposed work requirements, and it permitted states not to increase aid when recipients had more children.

But Kansas went even farther, with a lifetime limit of three years and other punitive measures. The foundation's study tracked more than 6,000 families over four years who were pushed off public assistance, and said the number of able-bodied adults on public assistance dropped nearly 78 percent. "Incomes continued to climb each year for those removed, eventually more than tripling—increasing by 247 percent within four years," it said. "Over that same period, these families saw an estimated $48 million increase in wages."

But in a piece in the conservative National Review, of all places, author Robert VerBruggen questioned the findings. He wondered how many people didn't find work. He said the authors responded that about 80 percent "had some record of employment after being removed from the program, but there was some fluctuation of people moving into and out of the labor force. About 65 percent were working in any given year after removal."

VerBruggen also questioned whether those families actually earned as much as claimed. Comparing the aggregate incomes of those families before and after, he concluded they rose by an average of $4,200, to about $12,100 each. Wage income alone averaged $11,100 a year, still poverty-level wages for one person, let alone a family. And Earned Income Tax Credits were counted as income. Not factored in were the additional costs of transportation, child care and other ancillaries.

"It's possible," VerBruggen surmised, "that many of these folks would have found work even without Kansas's new, stricter policy."

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. *Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

The report on Kansas concluded with a call for Congress to let states impose work requirements "in as many welfare programs as possible," such as Medicaid and food stamps, as Kansas did. "In so doing, they will be giving millions of American families the hand up they desperately need," it preached.

A hand up? Work requirements have caused thousands of Kansans to lose food stamps. Repeat drug offenders are banned from getting food stamps for life. TANF recipients are only allowed a maximum of $25 a day in benefit withdrawals from ATM machines. Anyone testing positive for drugs is suspended from TANF. And if someone living under the same roof as a TANF recipient has fraudulently received benefits, the housemate (or spouse) will be banned for life from getting any.

It's hard to see those harsh provisions as anything but spiteful, especially when they're aimed at the poorest sectors of society who probably have no other way to feed themselves or their families.

Nationally, welfare benefits are reaching fewer poor people. For every 100 families in poverty, only 23 received cash assistance from TANF in 2015—down from 68 families when TANF was first enacted in 1996, according to a report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Since the 1990s, the federal government has not increased TANF funding to states (effectively a 28 percent loss due to inflation), so states are "incentivized to reduce the rolls in any way they can."

Another perspective on welfare comes from a collection of papers edited by Camille Gear Rich of the University of Southern California's Gould law school. "This focus on rewarding the working poor discounts the possibility that it might be better for poor mothers to stay at home with their children and not participate in wage labor," says her report. "This focus obscures the fact that many of the income supports for the working poor actually function as cash transfers to corporations to allow them to hire people for salaries that do not produce a living wage or health care benefits, with the understanding that government will fill the gap and provide these necessities."

During his administration, George W. Bush pushed for $350 million in spending to promote marriage and sexual abstinence to reform welfare. But government can't end poverty by regulating the poor, making them marry, or stop having sex or bearing children.

Before cutting off anyone's lifeline, our leaders need to offer substantive training for decent jobs and comprehensively address mental health, substance abuse or other multigenerational barriers to employment. They also need to preach less and listen more.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To all rental car businesses

This is to support the need for rental car agencies to orient foreign drivers on the laws and expectations of driving in the CNMI. I want to thank Kagman Rep. Lorenzo DL Guerrero for speaking out on this issue. But too often, just asking people to do something, especially businesses, won't get it done completely, especially when it is systemic and dependent upon all to fulfill or respond accordingly. I would like to suggest a simple law that would require rental car agencies to show their clients a simple pictorial checklist of expectations for their clients to sign, showing they have been informed of these expectations. All tourists need to be oriented in pictorial form.

A pictorial approach will be the best method to resolve these issues. It is also very simple to implement and to explain, as opposed to a written document that would have to be in several languages and still explained to some degree.

It is also important to require rental car agencies to perform the orientation of driving in the CNMI to foreigners. If a tourist is stopped and cited for a violation and he or she doesn't have a signed copy of the pictorial orientation, then the rental car agency will also get a citation for failure to follow CNMI rental car law. We must fix this growing problem as it will only get worse!

Regarding the paying of citations by tourists who leave and never pay, this will continue to be a growing problem as our tourists industry grows. I actually offered the solution for the collection and payment of all citations in the Cannabis Act. There will be tourists who will get citations for smoking pot in unauthorized places and we also need to make sure no tourist leaves the CNMI with marijuana. I proposed in an amnesty checkpoint—tourists and everyone leaving would be screened for marijuana and a computer check for any outstanding warrants and citations to be paid before leaving. Individuals would be allowed to throw their marijuana or products away with no repercussion before entering the federally controlled area and, if they owe payment for a citation, they will have to pay it before they can proceed to exit the CNMI. Locals will be able to call and check if they owe anything before even going to the airport so they can be prepared. The implementation of a CNMI marijuana use card will also guarantee that every tourists who doesn't drive and gets a citation for pot can't use a fake name to avoid paying the citation. The problem of collecting all citations and warrants can easily be resolved with the method I suggested in the Cannabis Act—only if leaders will make it the law. There was also funding from the $12 million in start-up funding in the Cannabis Bill to assist the airport with more dogs and extending the departure checkpoint.

As for the tour guide certification, I actually went to MVA and talked about the same concerns raised by Rep. DL Guerrero because there are no local tour guides! How can foreign tour guides know more about the CNMI than locals? Locals are truly being marginalized out of the more skilled and high-profile jobs in tourism. Locals have no idea of the false and misleading stories some of these foreign tour guides are telling tourists about the sites, the history, the culture and the people of the CNMI. If the Legislature doesn't do something in the form of affirmative action to promote and protect certain jobs for locals, it's going to be a CW and Chinese operated tourism industry.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

BYE-BYE BANNON!
BY JOE "JUST GO" FOURNIER
FINE. I'LL GO. BUT KEEP IN MIND,
...WHEN I JOINED THIS ADMINISTRATION, I SET OUT TO TAKE THIS GOVERNMENT APART, DECONSTRUCT IT BEYOND RECOGNITION.
I WANTED A COMPLETE DECONSTRUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE!
SO, AS I LOOK AROUND, PICKING MY WAY THROUGH THE RUBBLE AND MAYHEM AS I'M SHOWN THE DOOR, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT:
I GOT EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.
▲87° ▼78°

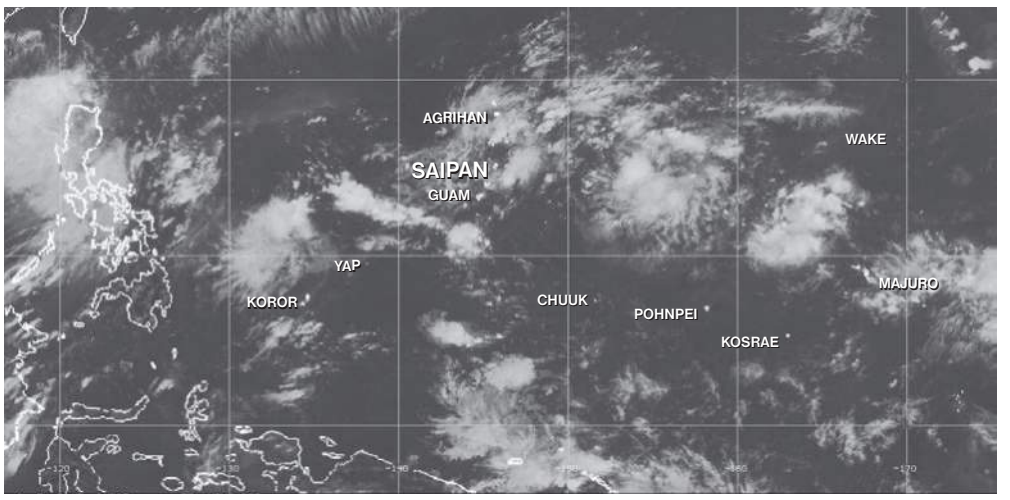
THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is seen just west of the northern CNMI. This low is combining with a surface trough to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tinian and Saipan this morning. These showers will slowly drift westward through the morning, with showers becoming isolated near noon. Moist air will remain over the Marianas through Saturday, maintaining an unsettled pattern and the risk of thunderstorms possibly into Sunday. Latest model guidance continues to show the possibility of scattered showers Friday night through Saturday night. The GFS is a bit more wet than the ECMWF, so decided to maintain isolated showers for now and keep an eye on the situation. For next week, the GFS shows a drier pattern than the ECMWF, though not by much, so looks likely that next week will see an overall drier forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Rain	75° / 62°
Osaka	Rain	88° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Busan	Rain	79° / 68°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 58°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Washington, DC	Rain	70° / 60°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:43 AM	LOW TIDE	0.79
7:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
1:57 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.02
8:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:44 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	-	6:38 AM	7:13 PM
Friday	-	7:31 AM	7:57 PM
Saturday	-	8:26 AM	8:42 PM
Sunday	-	9:22 AM	9:28 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

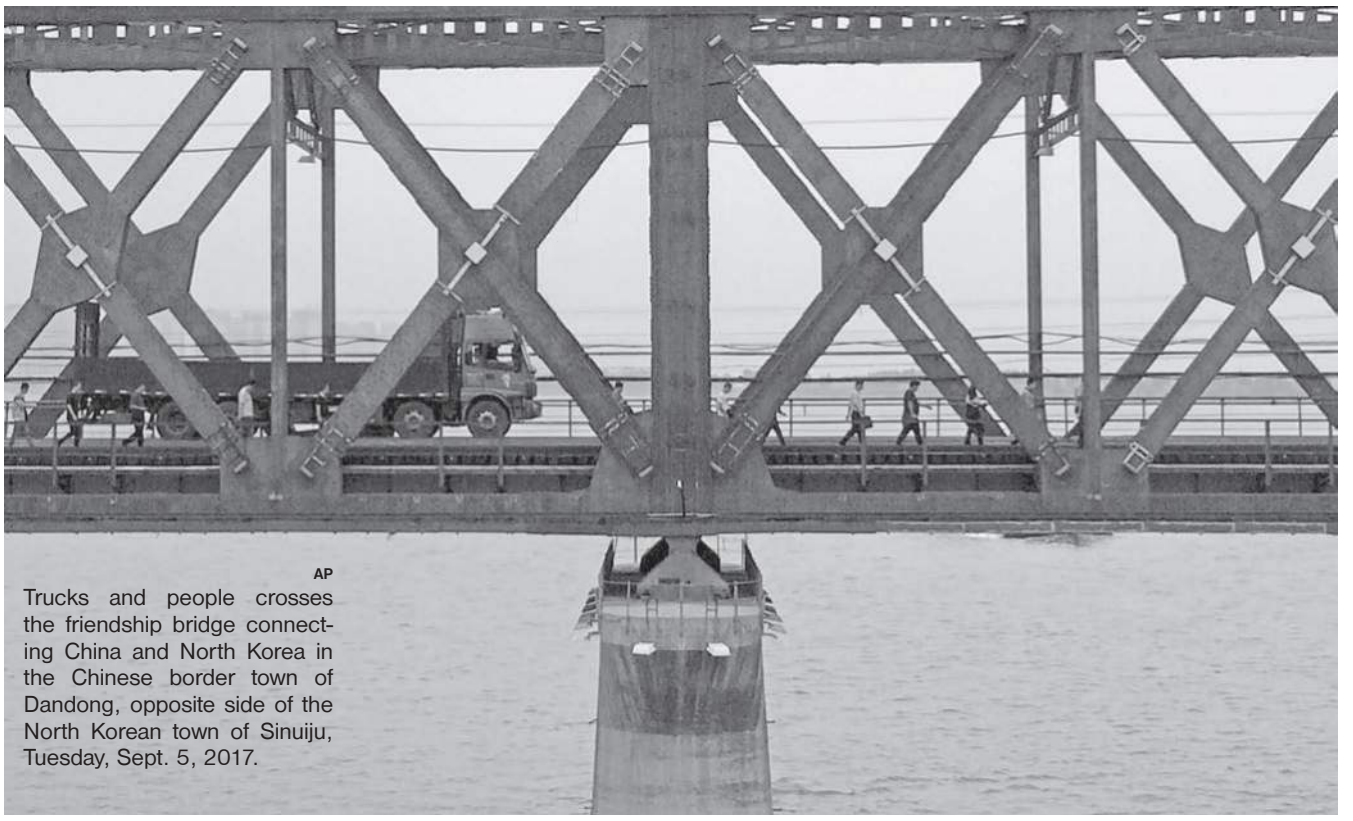
China has tools to pressure Kim but worries of consequences

BEIJING (AP)—China has the economic tools to pressure North Korea but fears pushing Kim Jong Un's government so hard it collapses.

Though China has long been the North's main trading partner and diplomatic protector, Kim's nuclear and missile tests have alienated Chinese leaders, who supported last month's U.N. sanctions that slash North Korean revenue by banning sales of coal and iron ore. President Donald Trump and others have called on China to use its leverage to do more to halt the North's nuclear development.

Beijing tried to head off the latest nuclear test, conducted Sunday, by warning Pyongyang that such an event would lead to even more painful penalties.

Still, Chinese leaders worry about instability on the Korean Peninsula if Kim's regime collapses, which would eliminate a buffer between China and South Korea, a heavily armed U.S. ally with American troops on its soil. Some of the options China has used or could and why other options are unlikely:



AP

Trucks and people crosses the friendship bridge connecting China and North Korea in the Chinese border town of Dandong, opposite side of the North Korean town of Sinuiju, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

TRADE CHINA ALREADY HAS CUT

Beijing stopped importing North Korean coal in February, depriving Kim's government of its biggest single source of revenue to pay for imports. Controls that take effect Tuesday under U.N. Security Council sanctions approved Aug. 4 formalize the coal ban and bar imports of iron and lead ores as well as seafood. North Korean companies operating in China also have been banned from launching new ventures that might generate additional revenue.

TRADE IT MIGHT CUT

Oil is Beijing's most powerful potential weapon. China accounts for 90 percent of the North's supplies. Oil shipments were suspended for three days in 2003 to express Chinese anger after a North Korean missile test. "Cutting this flow would likely have an immediate and costly impact on North Korea's economy," said Eurasia Group in a report. However, such a painful step could rupture relations, wiping out any influence Beijing has over Pyongyang, according to Myong-hyun Go of South Korea's Asan Institute. Beijing also has the option of banning imports of North Korean-made clothing—the biggest remaining source of export revenue. That would hurt Chinese companies that are part of that supply chain and a North Korean export industry that Chinese leaders are eager to see develop as way to make the country more prosperous and stable.

TRADE CHINA IS UNLIKELY TO CUT

China is the biggest foreign food supplier to North Korea, which has limited farmland and relies on imports to fill the gap. Chinese scholars say Beijing will reject pressure to cut off food supplies for fear of causing widespread hunger and possibly setting off a flood of refugees into China's northeast. The end of Soviet subsidies contributed to a massive famine blamed for hundreds of thousands of deaths in the 1990s, bringing the economy to the brink of collapse.

Fewer Harvey victims at shelters doesn't end housing needs

HOUSTON (AP)—One couple displaced by Harvey managed to get a hotel room, but got kicked out after one night for lacking state identification that was lost to the flooding. A man whose cellphone was wrecked by floodwater is staying at a convention center, waiting for government offices to reopen Tuesday.

While the number of evacuees seeking refuge in Houston's emergency shelters has dwindled, many thousands of people are still in dire need of housing. Some returned to complexes inundated with sewage and mud. Others are staying with family and friends.

More than 50,000 went to government-paid hotels, some far away from homes and schools.

"You can't just pick the hotel," said D'Ona Spears, who has no way of getting her children to school when it resumes next week. "You have to go further out, further out, further out."

Spears and Brandon Polson had gotten a government-funded hotel room near downtown, but without ID they had to leave. After going to the Toyota Center, the basketball arena that's also housing evacuees, they were taken to a motel in Humble, about 20 miles (32.19 kilometers) away. Spears said she wished the family could return to the convention center.

At the George R. Brown Convention Center, about 1,500 people remain and several said they were homeless, disabled or from public housing. About 2,800 were at the NRG Center, another convention center that opened after George R. Brown reached double its original capacity.

Morris Mack, who arrived at the convention center Aug. 30, sat outside the main entrance, sharing a cigarette. He hasn't been able to re-enter his home in a public housing development in northwest Houston, and he didn't know whether it'd be flooded.

While he registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance, Mack's cellphone was damaged by floodwaters, and he didn't have a working email address, making it difficult for the agency to get in touch with him or send him a check. He was hoping that once government offices reopen, he could get a government assistance

San Francisco official pushes robot tax to battle automation

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Security guard Eric Leon watches the Knightscope K5 security robot as it glides through the mall, charming shoppers with its blinking blue and white lights. The brawny automaton records video and sounds alerts. According to its maker, it deters mischief just by making the rounds.

Leon, the all-too-human guard, feels pretty sure that the robot will someday take his job.

"He doesn't complain," Leon says. "He's quiet. No lunch break. He's starting exactly at 10."

Even in the technology hotbed stretching from Silicon Valley to San Francisco, a security robot can captivate passers-by. But the K5 is only one of a growing menagerie of automated novelties in a region where you can eat a delivered pizza made via automation and drink beers at a bar served by an airborne robot. This summer, the San Francisco Chronicle published a tech tourism guide listing a dozen or so places where tourists can observe robots and automation in action.

Yet, San Francisco is also where workers were the first to embrace mandatory sick leave and fully paid parental leave. Voters approved a $15 hourly minimum wage in 2014, a requirement that Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law for the entire state in 2016. And now one official is pushing a statewide "tax" on robots that automate jobs and put people out of work.

It's too soon to say if the effort will prevail, let alone whether less-progressive jurisdictions might follow suit. The tussle points to the tensions that can flare when people embrace both technological innovation and a strong brand of social consciousness.

Such frictions seem destined to escalate as automation makes further inroads into the workplace. One city supervisor, Norman Yee, has proposed barring food delivery robots from city streets, arguing that public sidewalks should be solely for people.

"I'm a people person," Yee says, "so I tend to err on the side of things that should be beneficial and safe for people."

Jane Kim, the city supervisor who is pushing the robot tax, says it's important to think now about how people will earn a living as more U.S. jobs are lost to automation. After speaking with experts on the subject, she decided to launch a statewide campaign with the hope of bringing revenue-raising ideas to the state legislature or directly to voters.

"I really do think automation is going to be one of the biggest issues around income inequality," Kim says.

It makes sense, she adds, that the city at the center of tech disruption take up the charge to manage that disruption.

"It's not inherently a bad thing, but it will concentrate wealth, and it's going to drive further inequity if you don't prepare for it now," she says.

"Preposterous" is what William Santana Li, CEO of security robot maker Knightscope calls the supervisor's idea. His company created the K5 robot monitoring the Westfield Valley Fair mall in San Jose.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
21,987.56	2,476.55	6,435.33
+39.46	+4.90	+6.67
0.18%	0.20%	0.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.26	Hong Kong Dollar	7.82	Russian Ruble	57.70
British Pound	0.77	Indian Rupee	64.26	Singapore Dollar	1.35
Canadian Dollar	1.24	Japanese Yen	109.27	South Korean Won	1105.15
Chinese Yuan	6.41	Malaysian Ringgit	4.22	Swiss Franc	0.96
Euro	0.84	New Zealand Dollar	1.39	Taiwan Dollar	29.45
		Philippine Peso	50.10	Thailand Baht	31.72

Nation

Young immigrants prepare for worst if Trump ends protections

PHOENIX (AP)—Young immigrants shielded from deportation by a program that President Donald Trump was expected to end were battling to keep those protections Monday, while preparing for the worst.

Those who were brought to the country illegally as children rallied to save the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, amid reports that Trump will announce Tuesday he is unraveling it. Young immigrants held protests nationwide and had plans to it again Tuesday.

Some worry they will have to work under the table in lower-wage jobs, while others hope to persevere or even start their own businesses.

Korina Iribe said she and her partner have been discussing what they need to do to protect their 2-year-old son in the event that they are no longer shielded from deportation or cannot work. Both were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

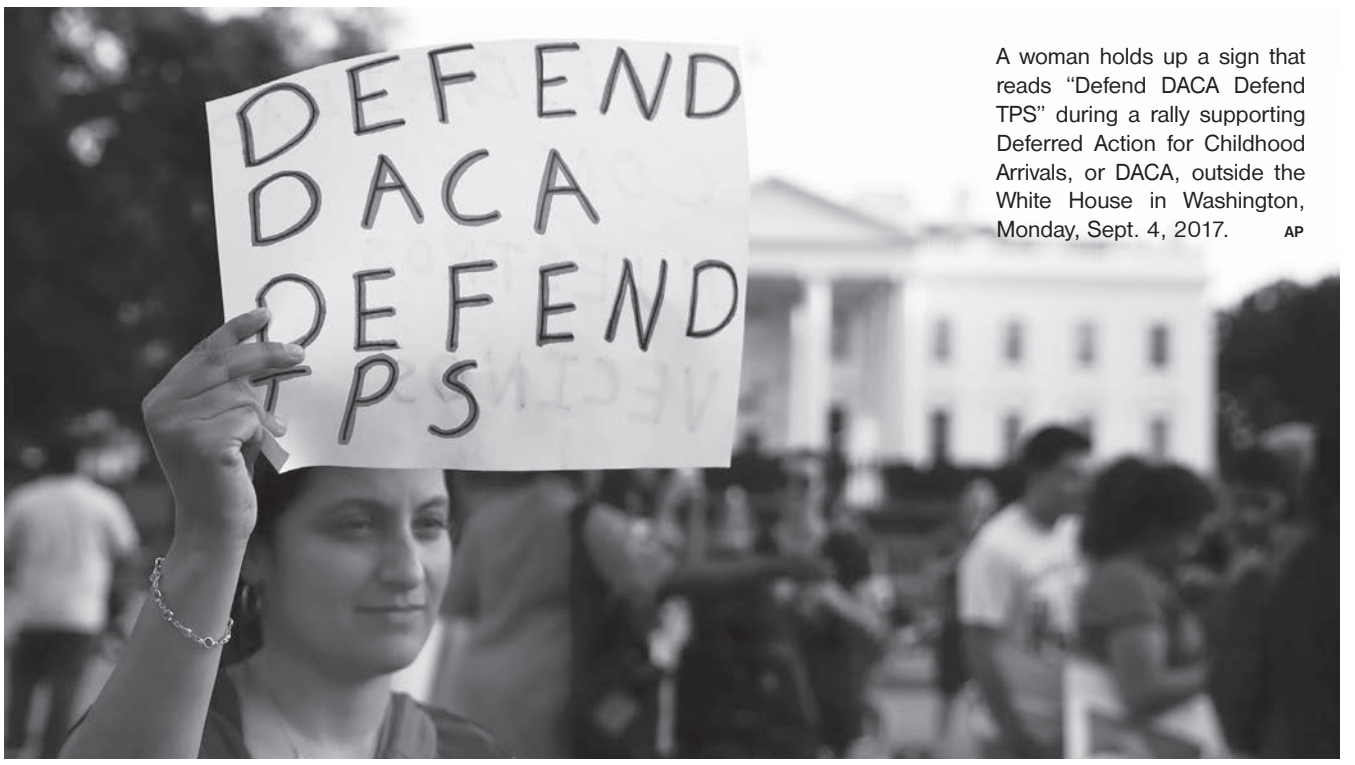
"Our son is U.S.-born, and ultimately for us, we want the best for him. But we also don't wanna go back to living in the shadows," said Iribe, from the Phoenix area.

They are preparing for the unknown, with Trump expected to end Obama-era protections for young immigrants who have permits to work in the U.S., but with a six-month delay. That would give Congress time to decide whether it wants to address the status of the law.

Details of the changes were not clear, including what would happen if lawmakers failed to pass a measure by the deadline.

Supporters of the program took to the streets Monday in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, South Carolina and elsewhere, holding up signs that read, "No person has the right to rain on your dreams" and "You may say I'm a dreamer but I'm not the only one."

Iribe and her partner are planning on giving one of her son's grandparents power of attorney in case they are deported without notice. She is considering getting her son dual citizenship so he could join them in Mexico if needed.



A woman holds up a sign that reads "Defend DACA Defend TPS" during a rally supporting Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, outside the White House in Washington, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017. AP

Iribe said her family also will need to figure out how to pay for a mortgage on a home they bought two months ago.

"For us, it's more like how will we protect ourselves from deportation, and two, how will we make it work for our family, financially," Iribe said.

Abril Gallardo, 27, has used the work permit she got through DACA to get a job as a communications director for a Phoenix advocacy group. That's allowed her to pay for college so far, although cutting off in her ability to work legally threatens that.

If she can't work anymore, Gallardo plans on helping with her mom's catering business and hopes to start their own family restaurant one day.

"The most important thing is that we're safe together, and we're there for each other," Gallardo said.

Evelin Salgado, 23, who came from Mexico 13 years ago, is worried about losing her job, her home and her driver's license if DACA is canceled.

"It's like my life is crumbling on top of me," said Salgado, who graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky last year and in is her second year as a high school Spanish teacher just outside Nashville, Tennessee.

"My hopes. My dreams. My aspirations. Everything my parents and I have worked so hard for. We don't know what's going to happen," she said.

Salgado and her parents rent a home and she helps them financially. They may be forced to move to a smaller home or an apartment "because if I lose my job, of course, we can't pay for it."

Her father works in landscaping and her mother washes dishes at a restaurant. That's what got Salgado through college.

"Millions of people live in the United States undocumented. My parents, they work. So unless they put us in deportation procedures, we would have to go back in the shadows," Salgado said. "By that I mean working on low-paying jobs, driving with no drivers' license."

Trump's DACA plan would pass hot potato to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—A plan President Donald Trump is expected to announce Tuesday for young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children was embraced by some top Republicans on Monday and denounced by others as the beginning of a "civil war" within the party.

The response was an immediate illustration of the potential battles ahead if Trump follows through with a plan that would hand a political hot potato to Republicans on the Hill who have a long history of dropping it.

Two people familiar with his decision making said Sunday that Trump was preparing to announce an end to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program, but with a six-month delay intended to give Congress time to pass legislation that would address the status of the hundreds of thousands of immigrants covered by the program.

The move comes after a long and notably public deliberation. Despite campaigning as an immigration hard-liner, Trump has said he is sympathetic to the plight of the immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally as children and in some cases have no memories of the countries they were born in.

But such an approach—essentially kicking the can down the road and letting Congress deal with it- is fraught with uncertainty and political perils that amount, according to one vocal opponent, to "Republican suicide."

Still other Republicans say they are ready to take on a topic that has proven a non-starter and career-breaker for decades.

"If President Trump makes this decision we will work to find a legislative solution to their dilemma," said Republican Sen. Lindsay Graham.

Officials caution Trump's plan, set to be unveiled Tuesday, is not yet finalized, and the president, who has been grappling with the issue for months, has been known to change his mind at the last minute ahead of an announcement. It also remains unclear exactly how a six-month delay would work in practice, including whether the government would continue to process applications under the program, which has given nearly 800,000 young immigrants a reprieve from deportation and the ability to work legally in the country in the form of two-year, renewable permits.

House Speaker Paul Ryan and a handful of other Republicans urged Trump last week to hold off on scrapping DACA to give lawmakers time to come up with a legislative fix.

But Congress has repeatedly tried—and failed—to come together on immigration overhaul legislation, and it remains uncertain whether the House would succeed in passing anything on the divisive topic.

The House under Democratic control passed a Dream Act in 2010, but it died in the Senate. Since Republicans retook control of the House in late 2010, it has taken an increasingly hard line on immigration. House Republicans refused to act on the Senate's comprehensive immigration bill in 2013. Two years later, a GOP border security bill languished because of objections from conservatives.

Many House Republicans represent highly conservative districts, and if the president goes through with the six-month delay—creating a March deadline—the pressure is likely to be amplified as primary races intensify head of the 2018 midterm elections.

One cautionary tale: the primary upset of former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor to a conservative challenger in 2014 in a campaign that cast him as soft on illegal immigration. That loss convinced many House Republicans that pro-immigrant stances could cost them politically.

Obstacles await as Congress resumes health care fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican hopes for repealing and replacing former President Barack Obama's health care law are still twitching in Congress, though barely.

Leaders lack the votes to pass something and face a fresh obstacle—the Senate parliamentarian ruled Friday that Republicans only have the ability to dismantle the law with 51 votes until the end of the month.

It's among several health issues lawmakers face when they return from summer recess, even as fights over the budget and helping Texas recover from Hurricane Harvey grab center stage.

WHEN WE LEFT OFF IN LATE JULY

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., tried to push three plans through his chamber erasing the 2010 law called Obamacare. Republican defections denied him the 50 votes needed, with Vice President Mike Pence ready to seal victory with a tie-breaking vote.

The excruciating last roll call failed 51-49. Three Republicans voted "no," one more than McConnell could afford to lose. President Donald Trump used August to insult McConnell for that flop, even suggesting he might need to relinquish his leadership post, inflaming tensions between the White House and congressional Republicans and lacerating party unity.

OBAMACARE REPEAL MEETS THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Republicans have used a procedure that's prevented Democrats from killing the health bill by filibuster. It takes 60 votes to defeat a filibuster. Without that special step, Republicans controlling the Senate 52-48 would need support from eight Democrats to repeal Obamacare, impossible given unanimous Democratic opposition.

The safeguard against filibusters was included in a budget for the government's 2017 fiscal year that Republicans pushed through Congress in January.

That protection expires at the end of September, the Senate's nonpartisan parliamentarian, Elizabeth MacDonough, has ruled. That's when the fiscal year ends.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the ranking member of the Budget Committee, said in light of the ruling, "we need to work together to expand, not cut, health care for millions of Americans who desperately need it."

That leaves Republicans with only September to nurture their slim repeal hopes unless the GOP-run chamber votes to overrule her.

Asia

US to UN: North Korean leader 'begging for war'

NEW YORK (AP)—North Korea's leader is "begging for war," the U.S. ambassador said Monday at an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, as members called for punishing the country with even stronger sanctions for its powerful nuclear test.

Ambassador Nikki Haley said the U.S. would look at countries doing business with the North—which include China—and planned to circulate a resolution this week with the goal of getting it approved Sept. 11.

"Enough is enough. War is never something the United States wants. We don't want it now. But our country's patience is not unlimited," Haley said.

"The United States will look at every country that does business with North Korea as a country, that is giving aid to their reckless and dangerous nuclear intentions," she said.

The move came as South Korea said it was seeing preparations in the North for an ICBM test and fired missiles into the sea to simulate an attack on the North's main nuclear test site.

Also on Monday, President Donald Trump spoke by phone with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and agreed that Sunday's underground nuclear test by North Korea was an unprecedented provocation. The two leaders also agreed to remove the limit on the payload of South Korean missiles.

The emergency U.N. session was scheduled after North Korea said it detonated the hydrogen bomb and came six days after the council strongly condemned what it called Pyongyang's "outrageous" launch of a ballistic missile over Japan. Less than a month ago, the council imposed its stiffest sanctions yet on Kim Jong Un's reclusive nation.

Still, the U.S. resolution faces an uncertain future. Russia and China have both proposed a two-pronged approach: North Korea would suspend its nuclear and missile development, and the United States and South Korea would suspend their joint military exercises.

Washington and Seoul say the maneuvers are defensive, but Pyongyang views them as a rehearsal for invasion. The North recently requested a Security Council meeting about the war games.

The U.S. says there is no comparison between its openly conducted, internationally monitored military drills and North Korea's weapons programs, which the international community has banned.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told reporters after the meeting that sanctions alone will not solve the issue and that negotiations are needed as well.

"Resolutions aimed solely at sanctioning North Korea have not worked well before," he said.

Diplomats from France, Britain, Italy and other countries reiterated demands for the Kim regime to halt its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs and urged further sanctions.

French Ambassador Francois Delattre said France was urging the adoption of new U.N. sanctions, swift implementation of existing ones and new, separate sanctions by the European Union.

"Pyongyang poses a clear threat to international peace and security and is increasingly and seriously challenging the global nonproliferation regime," said Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi of Italy, which heads the North Korea sanctions compliance committee. He noted that North Korea is the only country to have tested a nuclear device in the 21st century.

The North trumpeted that its sixth nuclear test blast since 2006 was a "perfect success."

"We cannot waste any more time. And in order to do that, we need North Korea to feel the pressure, but if they go down this road there will be consequences," Japanese Ambassador Koro Bessho told reporters before the meeting.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jieyi said the situation on the Korean peninsula "is deteriorating constantly as we speak, falling into a vicious circle." He called for restarting talks and asked Washington and Seoul to suspend their exercises.

The council aimed to take a big bite out of the North Korean economy earlier this month by banning the North from exporting coal, iron, lead and seafood. Together, those are worth about a third of the country's $3 billion in exports last year.

The council could look to sanction other profitable North Korean exports, such as textiles. Another possibility could be tighter limits on North Korean laborers abroad; the recent sanctions barred giving any new permits for such workers. The United States suggested other ideas earlier this summer, including air and maritime restrictions and restricting oil to North Korea's military and weapons programs.

AP

United Nations U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley addresses a U.N. Security Council meeting on North Korea, Monday Sept. 4, 2017 at U.N. headquarters.

S. Korea continues military drills after N. Korean nuke test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean warships conducted live-fire exercises at sea Tuesday as Seoul continued its displays of military capability following U.S. warnings of a "massive military response" after North Korea detonated its largest-ever nuclear test explosion.

South Korea's presidential office also said Washington and Seoul have agreed to remove bilaterally agreed warhead restrictions on South Korean missiles, which would allow the South to develop more powerful weapons that would boost its preemptive strike capabilities against the North.

The South's military exercises on Monday involved F-15 fighter jets and land-based ballistic missiles simulating an attack on North Korea's nuclear test site to "strongly warn" Pyongyang over the recent detonation.

The heated words from the United States and the military maneuvers in South Korea are becoming familiar responses to North Korea's rapid, as-yet unchecked pursuit of a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles that can strike the United States. The most recent, and perhaps most dramatic, advance came Sunday in an underground test of what leader Kim Jong Un's government claimed was a hydrogen bomb, the North's sixth nuclear test since 2006.

The U.N. Security Council held its second emergency meeting about North Korea in a week on Monday, with U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley saying the North's actions show that Kim is "begging for war," and the time has come for the Security Council to adopt the strongest diplomatic measures.

"Enough is enough. War is never something the United States wants. We don't want it now. But our country's patience is not unlimited," Haley said.

South Korea has been seeking to obtain more powerful missiles while it pursues a so-called "kill chain" pre-emptive strike capability to cope with North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threat.

Since the late 1970s, South Korean missile developments have been limited by a bilateral "guideline" between the U.S. and South, and it was updated in 2012 to allow the South to increase the range of its weapons from 500 kilometers (310 miles) to 800 kilometers (497 miles).

The agreement revealed Tuesday removes the 500-kilogram (1,100 pound) warhead limit on South Korea's maximum-range missiles, which would free the South to develop more powerful weapons potentially targeting the North's underground facilities and shelters.

BRICS countries urge UN reform, cooperation on terrorism

XIAMEN, China (AP)—The BRICS group of five major emerging economies called Monday for reform of the United Nations and tougher measures against terrorist groups, while denouncing North Korea's latest nuclear test at a summit in China that seeks to enlarge the organization's presence on the world stage.

The nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa- agreed in a joint declaration to strengthen cooperation against a range of organizations it described as terrorist, including some based in Pakistan, in a diplomatic victory for New Delhi.

The five also pledged their opposition to protectionism, a theme increasingly taken up by host Chinese President Xi Jinping as anti-globalization sentiment in the West poses a threat to China's vast export markets.

In the 43-page declaration, Xi, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Michel Temer and South African President Jacob Zuma said they would work together to improve global economic governance to foster "a more just and equitable international order."

They also strongly condemned North Korea's sixth—and most powerful—nuclear test that took place Sunday and has overshowed the two-day BRICS summit in the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen that China is using as a showcase for its growing international status.

Preeti Saran, an official with India's Ministry of External Affairs, said each leader had referred to North Korea's nuclear test when they spoke during their meeting.

The declaration said the five emphasized that the issue should only be settled through "peaceful means and direct dialogue of all the parties concerned."

World

Syrian troops close to breaking IS siege in eastern city

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian government forces and their allies are on the verge of breaking a nearly three-year siege imposed by the Islamic State group on parts of the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, opposition activists and state media said Monday.

Breaking the siege on Deir el-Zour would mark another victory for President Bashar Assad, whose forces have been advancing on several fronts against IS and other insurgent groups over the past year.

Syrian troops and allied militiamen have for months been advancing toward Deir el-Zour, the provincial capital of the oil-rich province of the same name. Government forces are besieged in a handful of neighborhoods as well as a nearby airport.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Monday that the advancing forces are a few hundred meters (yards) from a besieged, government-held air base known as Brigade 137. If they reach the base, they will be able to lift the siege.

State TV reported that government forces are only three kilometers (2 miles) away from breaking the siege. State news agency SANA reported the "collapse" of IS defenses in the area.

"The morale is very high," Deir el-Zour's governor Mohammed Ibrahim al-Samra told state TV, speaking from inside the besieged area.

"Assad's forces are few kilometers (miles) from breaking the siege," said opposition activist Omar Abu Laila, who currently lives in Europe but is from Deir el-Zour. He is with DeirEzzor 24, an activist group that has reporters throughout the eastern province.

Al-Manar TV, the media arm of Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, aired footage of people celebrating in the streets of besieged parts of Deir el-Zour. Some 70,000 people live in government-held areas, which have been relying on air drops for food and basic goods.

Hezbollah is fighting alongside Assad's forces, and Russia is providing crucial air support. The Russian Defense Ministry said its aircraft have carried out 80 airstrikes, destroying two tanks and killing and wounding 70 people in the Deir el-Zour area.

Thousands of people have been fleeing Deir el-Zour province because of the offensive, many of them heading toward the northeastern province of Hassakeh. Last week dozens of people were killed or wounded by mines laid by the militants.

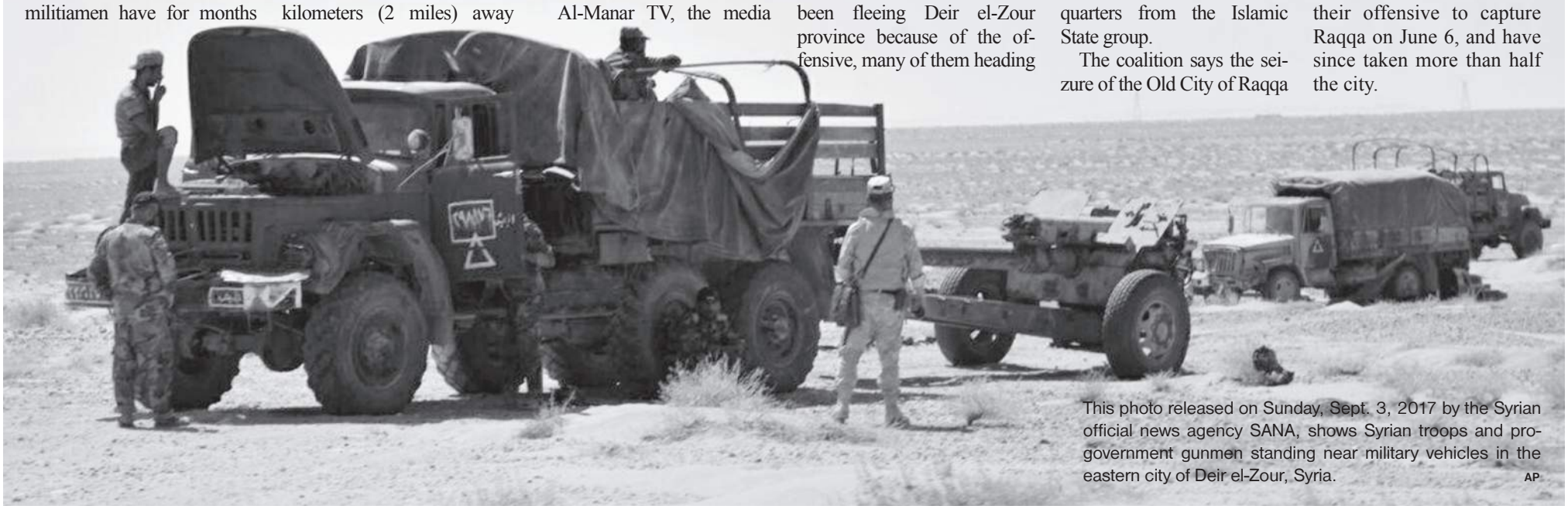
IS has suffered a series of major setbacks in both Syria and Iraq in recent months. The group is now forcibly conscripting all men between the ages of 20 and 30 to replace lost fighters.

Also on Monday, the U.S.-led coalition said allied Syrian fighters have successfully cleared a centuries-old mosque in Raqqa after seizing the Syrian city's ancient quarters from the Islamic State group.

The coalition says the seizure of the Old City of Raqqa and especially the Great Mosque is a "milestone" in the battle to defeat IS. It said the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, went to great lengths to limit damage to infrastructure, including the ancient mosque.

The Great Mosque is the oldest mosque in the city and has been under IS control since 2014, when the extremist group captured the city. IS later made Raqqa the de facto capital of its self-styled caliphate.

The SDF, aided by the U.S.-led coalition, launched their offensive to capture Raqqa on June 6, and have since taken more than half the city.



This photo released on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017 by the Syrian official news agency SANA, shows Syrian troops and pro-government gunmen standing near military vehicles in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, Syria. AP

Powerful Category 4 Hurricane Irma aims at Caribbean islands

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Officials across the northeastern Caribbean canceled airline flights, shuttered schools and urged people to hunker down indoors as Hurricane Irma barreled toward the region as a powerful Category 4 storm expected to strengthen more before nearing land late Tuesday.

States of emergency were declared in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and all of Florida while people on various Caribbean islands boarded up homes and rushed to find last-minute supplies, forming long lines outside supermarkets and gas stations.

Irma had maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (220 kph) late Monday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. It was centered 410 miles (660 kilometers) east of the Leeward Islands and moving west at 13 mph (20 kph).

Authorities warned that the storm could dump up to 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain, cause landslides and dangerous flash floods and generate waves of up to 23 feet (7 meters).

"This is not an opportunity to go outside and try to have fun with a hurricane," U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp warned. "It's not time to get on a surfboard."

The storm's center was expected to move near or over the northern Leeward Islands late Tuesday and early Wednesday, the hurricane center said.

Residents on the U.S. East Coast were urged to monitor the storm's progress in case it should turn northward toward Florida, Georgia or the Carolinas.

"This hurricane has the potential to be a major event for the East Coast. It also has the potential to significantly strain FEMA and other governmental resources occurring so quickly on the heels of (Hurricane) Harvey," Evan Myers, chief operating officer of AccuWeather, said in a statement.

In the Caribbean, hurricane warnings were issued for 12 island groups, including Antigua, where the governor urged people to evacuate the tiny island of Anegada if they could ahead of the storm.

Vivian Wheatley, proprietor of the Anegada Reef Hotel, planned to stay behind. She said she would hold up in one of the hotel rooms and take advantage of the generator since there were no guests

"We know it's a very powerful (storm), and we know it's going to be very close," she said. "Let's hope for the best."

People in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico braced for electricity outages after the director of the island's power company predicted that storm damage could leave some areas without electricity for four to six months. But "some areas will have power (back) in less than a week," Ricardo Ramos told radio station Notiuno 630 AM. The utility's infrastructure has deteriorated greatly during a decade-long recession, and Puerto Ricans experienced an island wide outage last year.

Both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands expected 4 inches to 8 inches (10-20 centimeters) of rain and winds of 40-50 mph with gusts of up to 60 mph.

A hurricane warning was posted for Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten and St. Barts, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. and British Virgin islands. A tropical storm warning was in effect for Guadeloupe and a tropical storm watch for Dominica.

WORLD BRIEFS

106-year-old Afghan woman faces deportation from Sweden

HOVA, Sweden (AP)—A 106-year-old Afghan woman who made a perilous journey to Europe, carried by her son and grandson through mountains, deserts and forests, is facing deportation from Sweden after her asylum application was rejected. Bibihal Uzbeki is severely disabled and can barely speak. Her family has appealed the rejection. Their journey made headlines in 2015, when they were part of a huge influx of people who came to Europe from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries. They traveled by foot and on trains through the Balkans before finally reaching Sweden. Two years later, she and her 11 family members are living in the small village of Hova, in central Sweden. Her rejection letter came during Ramadan. While the family avoided telling her, the constant grief from her granddaughters made her suspicious. "My sisters were crying," explained 22-year-old Mohammed Uzbeki. "My grandmother asked, 'Why are you crying?'" The family says that soon after she understood her request was denied, her health started deteriorating and she suffered a debilitating stroke.

Rwanda: Police question former presidential hopeful Rwigara

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)—Rwandan police say they are questioning a former presidential hopeful who is suspected of forgery and tax evasion. Police spokesman Theos Badege says officers forced their way into the home of Diane Rwigara after they were denied entry. Badege says she failed to respond to three summonses. Rwigara could not immediately be reached for comment Monday. Rwigara is a women's rights activist who attempted to run against longtime President Paul Kagame in last month's election. But her name did not appear on the ballot after the election board said she did not have enough support. Police say she is under investigation for allegedly forging some signatures in support of her bid. Kagame won by nearly 99 percent of the vote. He is frequently accused of being intolerant of dissent.

Wife of jailed Palestinian leader barred from prison visits

JERUSALEM (AP)—The wife of jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti says Israel has banned her from visiting him until 2019. Fadwa Barghouti says she arrived at the prison on Monday and was informed of the decision resulting from her role in his hunger strike earlier this year. She says Barghouti's family has been denied permits to enter Israel to visit him. Israel Prison Service spokesman Assaf Liberati confirmed that Barghouti was barred from visiting for "security reasons" as a consequence of the hunger strike. Barghouti led a hunger strike for 41 days earlier this year, demanding improved conditions for Palestinians jailed in Israel. He is serving five life terms after being convicted by an Israeli court in 2002 of directing two shootings and a bombing that killed five people.

Focus

AP

Gaston Kirby walks through floodwater inside his home in the aftermath of Harvey, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, near the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs, in Houston.

Harvey victims leave shelters but face dire housing needs

HOUSTON (AP)— While the number of evacuees seeking refuge in Houston's emergency shelters dwindled 10 days after Harvey struck, many people who had left by Monday still faced dire housing needs.

Some returned to public housing complexes inundated with sewage and mud. More than 50,000 went to government-paid hotels, some far away from homes and schools. Others moved in with family and friends.

Harvey did not discriminate, inundating exclusive neighborhoods and low-lying apartments for the poor, and was blamed for at least 60 deaths. Most of the evacuees at the George R. Brown Convention Center were lower-income, but some were from wealthier areas.

Now, about 1,500 remain at the convention center, and several said they were homeless, disabled or from public housing. About 2,800 were at the NRG Center, another convention center that opened after George R. Brown reached double its original capacity.

Harvey struck Texas on Aug. 25 as a Category 4 hurricane, but brought the worst flooding to Houston and other areas as a tropical storm. The rain totaled nearly 52 inches (1.3 meters) in some spots.

Mayor Sylvester Turner has declared Houston "open for business," and offices and restaurants across downtown are expected to reopen Tuesday after the Labor Day holiday.

Concerns about further explosions at a damaged chemical plant eased after officials on Sunday carried out a controlled burn of highly unstable compounds at the Arkema plant in Crosby. Three trailers had previously caught fire after Harvey's floodwaters knocked out generators.

Authorities said it was safe for residents of a 1.5-mile (2.4 kilometer) evacuation zone around the Arkema plant to return. They were forced to leave Aug. 29.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said 53,630 residents displaced by Harvey are currently staying in government-funded hotel rooms.

FEMA says it has about 560,000 families registered for its housing assistance program.

The temporary housing has been provided for 18,732 households, said FEMA spokesman Bob Howard. Once people are granted the assistance, there is a minimum allotment of 14 days, but that can be extended on a case-by-case basis.

FEMA officials also are weighing other options such as mobile homes should the need arise.

After Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, FEMA bought thousands of mobile homes for people left homeless, but the program was plagued by problems. Some victims who lived in the homes were exposed to high levels of formaldehyde, which was used in building materials.

On Monday night, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced that FEMA had granted his request for Community Disaster Loan assistance for areas hard-hit by the storm. Cities can obtain loans to help keep their operating budgets intact.

While there were signs of hope for some displaced by Harvey, others were not so lucky. Some residents of the Clayton Homes returned to apartments filled with water and floors caked in mud and sewage.

Clayton Homes residents were among the first to arrive at the convention center last weekend, many riding in the back of city dump trucks. The complex is bounded on one side by an interstate highway and on another by Buffalo Bayou, the muddy waterway that jumped its banks and sent water rushing into people's homes.

Piles of garbage and soggy furniture sat next to the gnarled remains of a fence separating the bayou from the complex. The rotting stench was present in parts of the complex.

"We didn't have anywhere to go but back here," said Laquinna Russell as she stood in the complex's laundry room with her husband, Antonio Washington, and one of their three children.

Russell and Washington spent one night in a hotel room instead of going to the convention center, but they came back after they ran out of money.

Russell used bleach to scrub the bottom floor of their two-story home as well as she could, but fears about mold and bacteria have forced the whole family to sleep on the second floor.

The children's newly purchased school clothes, however, were ruined. So was the family's TV, their couch and many of their belongings, including their two cars.

They registered for assistance from FEMA, but Russell and several other people said they couldn't find a hotel nearby. And they're still responsible for paying their rent.

Rosie Carmouche spent two days at George R. Brown with her two children, walking almost a mile to the convention center as floodwaters slowly pushed toward her home. She showed photos of high water over parked cars on her street.

The reason she came back home was what she saw on her way out of the complex.

"You had looters swimming back, breaking into these people's houses," she said.

She didn't want to stay at the convention center for too long, fearing for her possessions.

"They made you feel as comfortable as they possibly can. I will give them that," Carmouche said of the convention center. "But when your mind is—you know what kind of community you live in? It's hard."

D'Ona Spears and Brandon Polson managed to get a FEMA-funded hotel room near downtown but got kicked out after one night for lack of state identification. All of her paperwork had been lost in the floodwaters, Spears said.

The family went to the Toyota Center, the basketball arena near the convention center that's also housing evacuees. Then they were taken to a motel in Humble, a small city near Houston's international airport about 20 miles away.

Spears said they have no transportation and no way of getting the children to school when it resumes next week.

"You can't just pick the hotel," she said. "You have to go further out, further out, further out."

Morris Mack sat outside the main entrance to the convention center, sharing a cigarette with another person as a military band played in the background.

Mack arrived there Aug. 30 and hadn't been able to re-enter his home in a public housing development in northwest Houston.

While he registered for FEMA assistance, Mack's cellphone was wrecked by floodwaters, and he didn't have a working email address, making it difficult for the agency to get in touch with him or send him a check for assistance. He was waiting for government offices to reopen Tuesday so he can get a government assistance card that he could then use to get a cellphone to communicate with FEMA.

"I've gotten to a point where it is what it is. There's nothing I can do about it. Just trust in God."

Harvey By the numbers

$190 billion
Harvey's potential price tag

27%
Houston's multifamily, office, retail and industrial real estate that might be out of service from flooding

0.3 to **1.2**
Percentage points shaved off the nation's economic growth for the July-Sept. quarter

900,000
The number FEMA estimates it'll receive in requests for disaster assistance

984
The number of price gouging complaints fielded by the Texas Attorney General's office between last Friday and Thursday afternoon

Source: The Dallas Morning News
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Good Housekeeping

Experimental garden in Minneapolis has many stakeholders

By KIM PALMER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Volunteer Jacob Zahn and coordinator Claire Baglien work in the Gandhi Mahal Interfaith Garden. TNS

MINNEAPOLIS — On a sunny midsummer day in a south Minneapolis backyard, a handful of people were harvesting garlic for a meal to be served at a nearby American Indian church.

A few steps away, eggplant and exotic squash were ripening on the vine, almost ready for the kitchen of a neighborhood Bangladeshi/Indian restaurant.

The people picking the vegetables, weeding and tending the crops weren't members of the church or restaurant employees. They were young volunteers rounded up from a variety of local faith communities.

Whose garden is this, anyway?

A lot of diverse people and organizations have a stake in the Gandhi Mahal Interfaith Garden, an experimental plot in the Corcoran neighborhood.

Growing food is just one of the ambitious garden's lofty missions, according to its coordinator, Claire Baglien. It's also a place where people committed to food justice, faith and climate change can work together on common goals, she said.

"It's a space to connect the dots."

The unusual garden, in the backyard of a duplex, started a few years ago when students affiliated with Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs partnered with Gandhi Mahal restaurant to grow produce for use in its kitchen. The landlord of the duplex offered the yard for the experimental venture.

The second season, Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, a nonprofit group focused on climate justice, got involved with helping nurture the garden.

"A garden symbolizes what a faith community is — connections, caring for the planet and caring for life in urban areas where people don't have the opportunity to grow food or be in nature," said Baglien, an employee of Minnesota Interfaith Power Light, which organizes the volunteers.

GETTING A GOOD MEAL

Last year, First Nations Kitchen, a ministry for indigenous people based at All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission, became a stakeholder in the garden.

"It's all about food justice," said Robert "Rev" Two Bulls, pastor of the mission, which serves a free dinner featuring indigenous, organic food every Sunday to "people living on the margin — the homeless, drug users, chronic alcoholics. Everybody deserves a good meal."

The garden's crop mix reflects its two primary constituencies. First Nations Kitchen gets most of the tomatoes, onions, garlic, herbs and heirloom bean varieties, which are augmented with buffalo meat, walleye from Red Lake, wild rice and other indigenous foods to create the Sunday meals.

Most of the eggplant, Bangladeshi squash and herbs used in Indian cuisine go to the Gandhi Mahal restaurant.

"Each crop represents the community," said Baglien.

Twice a month, on Sunday nights, the garden becomes a community gathering spot, with guests at the First Nations Kitchen dinner invited to "open garden nights" where they can talk and share interests with others.

"One guy reads poetry. It gives them a stage," said Two Bulls.

In addition to producing food today, the garden is also an exercise in permaculture and regenerative agriculture, according to Baglien.

Once an arsenic cleanup site, the contaminated soil was removed, then replaced with 18 inches of sterile fill that lacked nutrients to adequately nourish plants.

At first, "nothing grew," said Baglien. The garden volunteers have started composting to restore beneficial bacteria and fungi to the soil, to better support growing plants and to improve the soil's ability to store carbon, which is where the climate justice piece comes in. "This is a process," Baglien said.

This growing season, two more organizations have gotten involved with the garden.

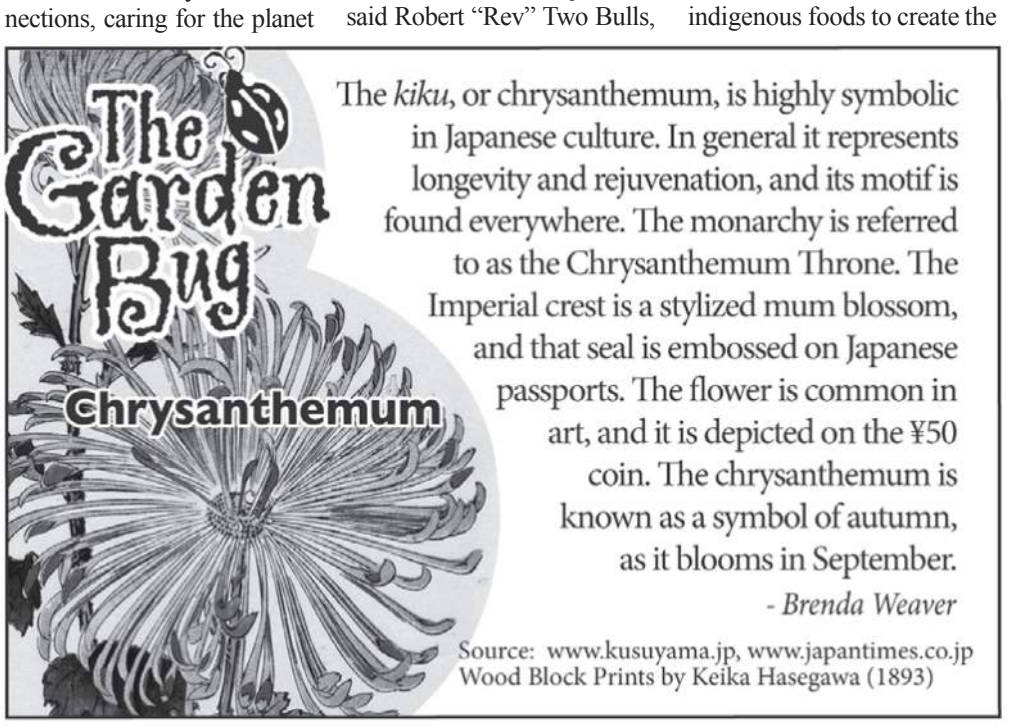
Teens involved with ThreeSixty Journalism, a nonprofit program of the University of St. Thomas, have been spending time in the garden interviewing those involved and producing video and print stories about it.

One of those teens is Genesis Buckhalton, a recent St. Louis Park High School graduate who plans to study journalism at Drake University this fall. She and her summer camp partner chose the garden out of several possible stories to cover. "For me, personally, it stuck out," she said. "I like gardens, I like the idea, and I wanted to learn."

Funding to help teen journalists tell the story of the garden and bring it to a wider audience was provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield's Center for Prevention and its "Healthy Eating Success Stories" initiative.

"There are so many examples of healthy eating you don't hear about," said Christian Knights, communications and advocacy principal with the center.

"What we like is that they're creating healthy choices and availability for people who don't have access [to healthful food] who are in urban food deserts. This is a way to address that — and an engagement point to bringing folks together to talk about healthy food."


The Garden Bug
Chrysanthemum
The *kiku*, or chrysanthemum, is highly symbolic in Japanese culture. In general it represents longevity and rejuvenation, and its motif is found everywhere. The monarchy is referred to as the Chrysanthemum Throne. The Imperial crest is a stylized mum blossom, and that seal is embossed on Japanese passports. The flower is common in art, and it is depicted on the ¥50 coin. The chrysanthemum is known as a symbol of autumn, as it blooms in September.
- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.kusuyama.jp, www.japantimes.co.jp
Wood Block Prints by Keika Hasegawa (1893)

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Claire Baglien, coordinator of the Gandhi Mahal Interfaith Garden. TNS

Life & Style

Like Destiny's Child, Fifth Harmony bounces back after drama

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's been a year of transition for Fifth Harmony: The pop stars parted ways with member Camila Cabello, switched management teams, negotiated a new contract with their label and won greater creative control of their brand.

Luckily the newly-minted quartet, who released their third album last week, had the fairy godmother of girl groups to guide them through the tumultuous times: Destiny's Child alum Kelly Rowland.

"We were advised by THE Kelly Rowland," Dinah Jane, 20, said with reverence. "She just told us to, like, let the music speak for itself ... and just know your worth, believe in yourself and just be there for each other. So we've definitely honed into that. And for her to advise that, like, that says a lot because, you know, she's gone through the same things."

"And she said that she was really proud of us," beamed Normani Kordei, 21.

Destiny's Child went through similar changes before settling on the final and most famous formation, the trio of Rowland, Beyonce Knowles and Michelle Williams.

Fifth Harmony said they looked to the "Bootylicious" hitmakers when deciding to fill the spot left by Cabello, who exited in December to pursue a solo career.

"We kept referencing that while we were in the moments of that whole thing happening. ... Like people, teams or whatever, suggesting, 'Oh maybe we get a fifth member?'" Lauren Jauregui, 21, recalled. "Like no, dude. If we're going to do this, it's the four of us. Period."

"It's been us. It will be us," echoed Kordei.

The group doubled down on that decision during Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, where a stand-in fifth member was quickly tossed from the stage as they began to perform. The dance-heavy performance, which came two days after the release of their new album, was well-received and boosted sales of the single "Down." The girls also won best pop video for the song's video, which features rapper Gucci Mane.

Naming their third album after the group drives the point home—though they've downsized, they feel stronger than ever.

"(The album) is more edgy and mature, of course, but the most harmonious we've ever been," Jane said.

They say they are most comfortable now because they're in the driver's seat. They pushed for more creative control with their labels, Epic Records and Simon Cowell's Syco imprint, and sought legal counsel to gain ownership of the Fifth Harmony trademark.

"When we hired our lawyer, Dina LaPolt, that's when our real transformation began because she really informed us about our business and informed us about our rights as artists," Jauregui said. "And we really, I feel, gained this sort of inner power that we didn't have before and this control and ownership of our music, of our brand, of our business."

Fifth Harmony was formed on the U.S. version of "The X Factor" in 2012. In 2015 they released their full-length debut, "Reflection," finding chart success with the upbeat hit, "Worth It." They reached greater heights with the slick and sexy song "Work from Home"—the lead single from last year's "7/27"—peaking at No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

But behind closed doors, the girls were struggling.

"There are just so many crazy things that happen behind-the-scenes. So many honestly horrific situations that happen and we had to step up and say, 'You know what? We demand the respect that we deserve,'" recalled Ally Brooke, 24. "We need to write on this album. We need to be part of that process and that's exactly what we did."

"Fifth Harmony" delivers more of the group's signature provocative pop/R&B sound along with an eclectic mix of messages. The women writhe on motel beds and showcase saucy parking lot dance sequences in the video for "Down." They touch on politics and encourage inclusivity in the uplifting album-closer "Bridges." And they issue a stern warning to those who misjudge them in the darker, F-bomb fueled "Angel," produced by Justin Bieber collaborator Poo Bear and grungy EDM star Skrillex.

"Honestly it's a breath of fresh air," said Kordei of the group's new dynamic. "We're just so grateful and we thank God, like, literally every single day."

"Even in those times where the storm was really, really heavy and we didn't know if it was going to end ... now I recognize what goodness actually feels like."

Dinah Jane, from left, Ally Brooke, Normani Kordei, and Lauren Jauregui of Fifth Harmony pose in the press room with the award for best pop video for "Down" at the MTV Video Music Awards at The Forum on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, in Inglewood, Calif.

AP

In Celebration of his new life

†JOSEPH RAYMOND DUENAS ALDAN

Lovingly known as "PING"

Born to life August 04, 1970 - Called to Eternal life on September 02, 2017

In his new life, Joe now joins his:

FATHER:	†VICENTE MATAGOLAI ALDAN
PATERNAL GRAND FATHER:	†JOSE CASTRO ALDAN
PATERNAL GRAND MOTHER:	†RITA MATAGOLAI ALDAN
MATERNAL GRAND MOTHER:	†MARIA TENORIO CRUZ PEREDO
FATHER IN LAW:	†RAMON TORRES TUDELA
PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS	†ISIDORO B. / †TERESA T. TUDELA †CECILIA T./TORCUATO S. BORJA
MATERNAL GRAND FATHER IN LAW:	†JOAQUIN DLG. BERMUDES
MATERNAL GRAND MOTHER IN LAW:	†ADELA CASTRO BERMUDES

His memories will forever live in the heart of his:

WIFE:	**LUCRETIA "LOU" TUDELA ALDAN**
CHILDREN:	VICENTE "BENG" TUDELA ALDAN(KELSEY) ANDREW RAY TUDELA ALDAN REINE CECIL TUDELA ALDAN OLIVIA CLAIRE TUDELA ALDAN JACOB ANTHONY TUDELA ALDAN
GRANDSON:	TATE STEFAN G. ALDAN
MOTHER:	INES (*YOKO*) CRUZ DUENAS ESTELITA ROSARIO ALDAN
MOTHER IN LAW:	REMEDIOS BERMUDES TUDELA

BROTHERS & SISTERS:

CHARLIE D./DOLORES C. LEON GUERRERO & FAMILY, NICOLAS D./ JACQUELINE C. LEON GUERRERO & FAMILY, CHRISTOPHER D./ FRANCES P. LEON GUERRERO & FAMILY, VELMA D. ALDAN & FAMILY, RITA A./ VICENTE C. SANTOS & FAMILY, JAMES D./ RUFINA DLG ALDAN & FAMILY, ANTONETTE A./ TROY M. PALACIOS & FAMILY, SEAN D./ CINDY V. ALDAN & FAMILY, SOPHIA D. ALDAN/ PETROS TAISAGUE & FAMILY, VERONICA FAYE D. ALDAN/ JOSE OJEDA & FAMILY, LILLIAN C. LEON GUERRERO

BROTHERS & SISTERS IN LAW:

EDWIN B. TUDELA & FAMILY
LYSANDER B./MARIAN C. TUDELA & FAMILY
JAIME B. TUDELA/ DEXTER MARATITA & FAMILY

HE IS ADDITIONALLY SURVIVED BY HIS NUMEROUS UNCLES, AUNTS, COUSINS, NIECES, NEPHEWS, GOD-CHILDREN, FRIENDS & CO-WORKERS.

Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of his soul are being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, September 09, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers

Lucretia "Lou" Tudela Aldan, Children and Family

Next Miss America could be pilot, governor, alpaca farmer

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—One wants to be the first female governor of North Dakota. One is a half-blind baton twirler who performed at a Super Bowl. Another wants to chase tornadoes.

One wants to run an alpaca farm, another is a former NFL cheerleader, yet another wants to sing the National Anthem at a Boston Red Sox game, and there is another who wants to be a criminal profiler for the FBI.

The 51 women vying to become the next Miss America have a wide range of interests, dreams and backgrounds, which they'll be sharing with the nation this week in the run-up to Sunday's nationally televised finale of the scholarship pageant.

"I really want to be a real-life Miss Congeniality," says Miss Nevada, Andrea Martinez. Unlike the movie in which FBI agent Sandra Bullock enters a national pageant to prevent a crime, Martinez is trying it in reverse order: Become Miss America, THEN become an FBI agent.

She was in the process of becoming a police officer in Las Vegas when she won her state title, delaying the start of a law enforcement career she hopes will culminate with her becoming a criminal profiler for the FBI. Her pageant platform involves bringing police departments and local communities together to lessen tensions and foster mutual respect.

"Being a minority and being expected to have a certain view of law enforcement, I actually saw both sides and helped expose both sides to each other," she said.

Miss Colorado, Meredith Winnefeld, has been blind in her right eye since birth. Her platform is on vision care for young children.

Her visual disability made it harder, but not impossible, to pursue her love—baton twirling.

"I had to teach myself and take the time to know I'd be able to do it," she said.

She won a national championship at age 11, and performed at the 2015 Super Bowl. Her dream is to twirl at another one—but this time, it will be won by the Denver Broncos.

Miss North Dakota, Cara Mund, wants to be the first woman elected governor of her state. She wants to see more women elected to all levels of government.

AP

In this Aug. 30, 2017 photo, Miss America contestants sit during a welcoming ceremony in Atlantic City, N.J.

"It's important to have a woman's perspective," said Mund, who had an internship in the U.S. Senate. "In health care and on reproductive rights, it's predominantly men making those decisions."

Miss Maine, Katie Elliot, has similar ambitions. Her platform encourages female leadership in American government, with the acronym "FLAG." She's been interested in politics and government since winning an election to be seventh grade class president.

"I'm a huge admirer of democracy, but what I noticed is a huge disparity between the number of men and women," she said, adding she wants to encourage more women to see elected public service as a viable career path.

Time studying in the Middle East and Africa got Miss Oregon, Harley Emery, deeply interested in the refugee crisis. She founded a group at the University of Oregon called "No Lost Generation" that helps teach resettled refugees English and find them jobs. She befriended refugees from Syria and Iraq, among others.

Other interesting contestants facts include:

■ Miss California, Jillian Smith, is one of seven granddaughters in her family to have competed in a Miss America feeder pageant.

■ Miss District of Columbia, Briana Kinsey's, secret dream is to be a contestant on "Survivor," lasting more than one day, while the dream of Miss Georgia, Alyssa Beasley, is "to be the last person standing in a horror film."

■ Miss Indiana, Haley Begay, hopes to own an alpaca farm somewhere in the south.

■ Miss Louisiana, Laryssa Bonacquisti's dream is "to chase a tornado."

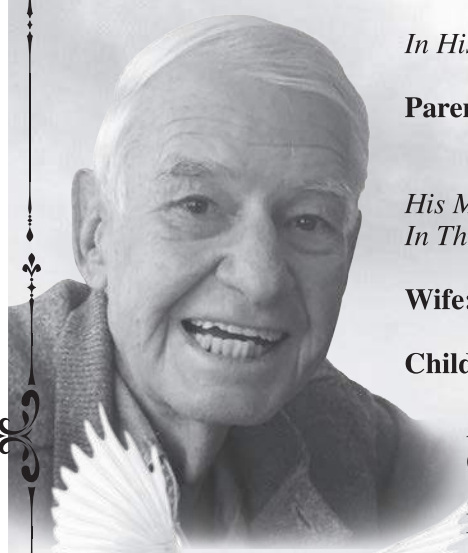
■ Miss Michigan, Heather Kendrick, appeared last season on "America's Got Talent" with the electro-pop violin group "Nuclassica."

■ Miss New Mexico, Taylor Rey, wants to be a voice actor for cartoons, and Miss New York, Gabrielle Walter, wants to argue a high-profile case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

■ Miss Rhode island, Nicolette Peloquin, wants to be a New England Patriots cheerleader; Miss South Carolina, Suzi Roberts, actually was an NFL cheerleader for the Atlanta Falcons; Miss Virginia, Cecili Weber, wants to play lead guitar for an all-female rock band, and Miss Washington state, Nicole Renard, wants to go to the moon.

†ENRICO HEINZ STAFFLER

SEPTEMBER 23, 1937- AUGUST 24, 2017



In His New Life He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Anton Staffler
†Getrude Staffler

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His:

Wife: Wanlee Saelim Staffler

Children & Grandchildren:

Alexandra "Sandy" Staffler Weaver (Eva and Justin)

Markus And Leila Staffler (Fanai and Coco)

Syvlia Lederer And Peter (Anna-maria)

Best Friend: Monika Nugent

He will be greatly missed by numerous cousins, relatives and friends.

Please join us in celebrating his new life with a special sea burial aboard the Puti'on Saipan boat on September 9th, Saturday, 10am at Outer Cove Marina (Smiling). Please be advised that space is limited. Thank you in advance for your kind understanding.

Conservative publisher wants nothing more to do with Times

NEW YORK (AP)—A company that publishes books by Laura Ingraham, Mark Levin, Ann Coulter and other conservative authors says it wants nothing to do anymore with The New York Times and its best-seller list.

Regnery Publishing said on Monday it will no longer recognize the Times' accounting of book sales, meaning its writers can no longer claim to be "New York Times best-selling authors." That's a big deal in the book business.

Regnery is annoyed that its book "The Big Lie: Exposing the Nazi Roots of the American Left" was only No. 7 on the Times' latest best-sellers list even though another organization that tracks sales ranked it No. 1. Regnery says another of its books, "No Go Zones: How Sharia Law is Coming to a Neighborhood Near You," is also not ranked as highly by the Times as it deserves to be.

The Times noted that conservative authors have routinely ranked high and in great numbers on its best-sellers list.

"Our goal is that the lists reflect authentic best sellers," Times spokesman Jordan Cohen said. "The political views of authors have no bearing on our rankings, and the notion that we would manipulate the lists to exclude books for political reasons is simply ludicrous."

The newspaper is a frequent target of conservatives and Republicans, including President Donald Trump. But it's unusual for a publisher to say, effectively, that it's taking its ball and going home.

Regnery says the Times' list gives priority to liberal books.

The publishing company's writers, besides no longer being allowed to use the Times' rankings to promote themselves, will no longer get bonuses tied to their books appearing on the newspaper's list.

"I ask you to consider this: We are often told it's foolish to bite the hand that feeds you," Marji Ross, president and publisher of Regnery, said in a letter to its authors. "I say it's just as foolish to feed the hand that bites you."

Book sales are an inexact science. Nielsen BookScan, the measurement that Regnery cites as ranking its books higher, counts print sales in stores representing about 85 percent of the market. The Times says its list is based on surveys of thousands of booksellers.

Man tied to $500M art heist to be sentenced in separate case

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A reputed Connecticut mobster who authorities say is the last surviving person of interest in the largest art heist in U.S. history is set to be sentenced on unrelated weapons convictions.

Robert Gentile is scheduled to be sentenced Tuesday in federal court in Hartford.

Prosecutors have said they believe the 81-year-old Manchester resident has information about the still-unsolved 1990 heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Thieves stole an estimated $500 million worth of artwork, including works by Rembrandt, Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas and Johannes Vermeer.

Gentile has denied knowing anything about the theft.

Gentile pleaded guilty in April in connection with the seizure of firearms and ammunition from his home by federal agents. The plea deal calls for him to serve three to six years in prison.

Palace announces Prince William, Kate expecting third child

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, will soon welcome a third child to the royal nursery.

Kensington Palace officials announced Monday that the former Kate Middleton is pregnant, but was not feeling well enough to attend an engagement later in the day.

As with her other two pregnancies, she is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum, or acute morning sickness. She is being cared for at the royal couple's apartment in London's Kensington Palace.

The sickness failed to dampen the buoyant mood among the royals, however. Prince Harry will be bumped down in the line of succession, but was overjoyed, describing the news as "fantastic," and offering a thumb's up while on a visit to Manchester.

And asked how the Duchess was he said: "I haven't seen her for a while but I think she's OK."

No details were immediately available about when the third baby is due, though the duchess is less than 12 weeks pregnant. That would put the due date somewhere between mid-March and mid-June.

William and Kate, both 35, already have two children: Prince George, 4, and Princess Charlotte, 2.

The announcement comes as the royal couple prepared to mark another milestone for their young family: Prince George is scheduled to start school Thursday at Thomas's Battersea in south London.

Their choice of a south London school indicated that the royal couple was settling into their Kensington Palace apartment, having moved recently from their Norfolk home, Anmer Hall.

Betting agencies were quick to start offering odds on possible names for the soon-to-be addition to the House of Windsor.

Paddy Power offered 8-to-1 odds on Alice and 10-to-1 odds on Arthur. Also popular is Diana, after Prince William's mother, particularly given the timing of the announcement.

William and Kate took a leading role in marking the 20th anniversary of Diana's death last week. The couple, joined by Prince Harry, toured the garden of Kensington Palace to commemorate the princess's contributions to their family and the many charities she supported.

"Given the recent anniversary, there'll be plenty of interest in the name Diana if the baby is a girl," Paddy Power said.

When asked on a royal tour in Singapore in 2012 about how many children he wanted, William said he was "thinking about having two."

More recently, during a royal tour of Poland, Kate joked about a third child when she was given a cuddly toy designed to soothe tiny babies.

Kate thanked the well-wisher for the present and turned to William.

"We will just have to have more babies," she said, laughing.

Kate is the eldest of three siblings, and reportedly had a very happy childhood. William and Harry are the only children of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Some visitors to the palace Monday were taken aback by the news. Elizabeth Hopkins, 79, from west London was delighted and said Britain needs lots of royal children.

"They're lovely and, you know, going around with a lot of children brings out the best in people as well," she said. "And they've obviously very happy children and in a happy group, so I think it's all the best for them."

Others said the world would be watching.

Katherine Redo, 34, who lives in London but is originally from Metairie, Louisiana, held tight to her squirming 2-year-old daughter, Annabelle, and said she believed many people in the United States would be happy for the royal couple.

"It's sweet because usually it's just an heir and a spare and they're having a third," she said. "It just gives the idea or the impression that they're just even more the sweetest, perfect little family."

AP

In this Friday, July 21, 2017 file photo Britain's Prince William, second left, and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, second right, and their children, Prince George, left, and Princess Charlotte, right are on their way to board a plane in Hamburg, Germany.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' screens in 3-D at Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Director John Landis said Monday that he is still upset by Michael Jackson's death, but a Venice Film Festival screening dedicated to "Thriller" is a chance to celebrate the musician's life. An enhanced version of the landmark Landis-directed music video, "Michael Jackson's Thriller 3-D," is screening alongside a behind-the-scenes documentary that has never been shown in cinemas before. Landis told reporters in Venice on Monday that Jackson's death aged 50 in 2009 was a tragedy for his family, his friends and the world. "Truly great performers are rare, and he was brilliant—and a tragic figure, I think," Landis said. "I was horrified, and I'm still upset about it. The 14-minute "Thriller" video, released in 1983, stemmed from Jackson's love of Landis' film "An American Werewolf in London" and the King of Pop's desire to turn into a monster onscreen.

Obama, Serena dress as Beyonce for b-day, Harvey donations

HOUSTON (AP)—Michelle Obama, Serena Williams and other famous friends of Beyonce are sporting one of her fiercest looks to celebrate her birthday and raise Harvey disaster relief funds. A series of photos posted to Beyonce's website on Monday showed the former first lady, the tennis star and others styled in a look from Beyonce's "Formation" video. Above the 18 photos, including one of the singer's daughter Blue Ivy Carter, was a message and link asking fans to support relief efforts in Houston. The singer's website sought donations for Bread of Life and the Greater Houston Community Foundation. Beyonce turned 36 on Monday.

Expectant mother hasn't told husband he's not the father

DEAR ABBY: I am a mother of three and happily married to my kids' father. I am now seven months pregnant with my fourth baby, but this child is not my husband's. My husband is a loving man and a good father. My problem is, I don't know how to tell him I'm not carrying his baby. The man I slept with is married and always saying he wants to marry me. He has one son with his wife. I love my kids, and I still love my husband. How can I tell him the truth without tearing my family apart?

BIG MISTAKE

DEAR BIG MISTAKE: Not knowing your husband, I can't guess at how he will react when you break the news. I'm sure he won't be pleased to hear it. Regardless, he must be told, so do it at a time when it's calm and quiet and you can discuss it without your children running in and out. I am sure he will have many questions—among them, whether you plan to continue a relationship with the child's father. (Does the man plan to be part of the baby's life in years to come?)

Because this may have legal ramifications, discuss this with an attorney, who can guide you in case there may be visitation issues, custody problems, etc. lurking just beyond the horizon.

DEAR ABBY: I talked with one of my siblings about having a joint vacation. He suggested all of us get together with our spouses and go on one together. We discussed locations and had a family meeting to discuss the possibility. We're all in our 50s or older, and some of us have health issues.

There has always been a lot of bickering between some of us because of control issues. I explained to everyone that we can make our requests for locations, activities, etc., but we all need to be willing to give a little. The bickering is continuing, and some unkind things were said about others.

I just want to plan a fun vacation and have a good time, but I'm worried the negativity will carry over to the vacation. We are all we have left in this world. Our parents died years ago, and since then, one of our siblings has passed away, too. I worry that this may be a last chance for all of us to be together. All but one live within 10 miles of each other, and I'm sad to say we get together only a few times a year. Any suggestions on how to handle this sticky situation?

IN VACATION MODE

DEAR VACATION MODE: Taking into consideration the family dynamics you have described, it's wishful thinking to believe you can control the way your siblings relate to each other. The reason they see each other so infrequently may have something to do with the fact that some of them are petty, immature and nasty. My suggestion would be to invite only those siblings who can get along with each other and see the other ones separately.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

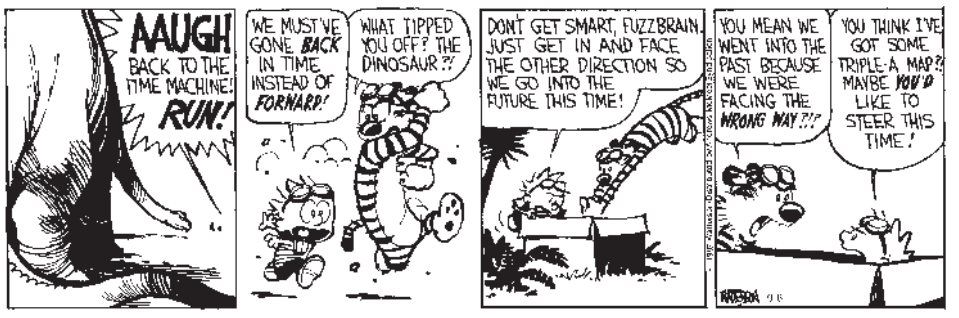
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AAUGH
BACK TO THE TIME MACHINE! RUN!
WE MUST'VE GONE BACK IN TIME INSTEAD OF FORWARD!
WHAT TIPPED YOU OFF? THE DINOSAUR?!
DON'T GET SMART, FUZZBRAIN. JUST GET IN AND FACE THE OTHER DIRECTION SO WE GO INTO THE FUTURE THIS TIME!
YOU MEAN WE WENT INTO THE PAST BECAUSE WE WERE FACING THE WRONG WAY?!?
YOU THINK I'VE GOT SOME TRIPLE-A MAP?! MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO STEER THIS TIME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT IF YOU WROTE A PICTURE BOOK? FOR KIDS?
I USED TO LOVE THAT BEDTIME STORY YOU TOLD US ABOUT THE HUNGRY BEAR THAT ATE AND ATE AND ATE.
I REMEMBER IT SO VIVIDLY. THE MUNCHING AND SLOBBERING.
I THINK THAT WAS JUST ME HAVING MY NIGHTTIME SNACK.
SERIOUSLY? THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE SNICKERS AND SLIM JIM WRAPPERS UNDER THE BED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pleasures
5 PC key
8 Nile bird
12 Twistable cookie
13 Half of CIV
14 Heal
15 Course summary
17 "Woe —!"
18 Make public
19 Sweet drink
21 Knight's address
22 Towering
23 Little lie
26 Cash dispenser
28 Jockey's handful
31 Burden
33 Calendar abbr.
35 Peevish fit
36 Count with an orchestra
38 Retrieve
40 Carefree
41 Delany or Carvey
43 Stanley Cup org.
45 Quake
47 ER prioritization
51 Lariat
52 Ohio city
54 Big fusses
55 Away from WSW
56 Nest egg choices
57 Apportion
58 German article
59 Poi base

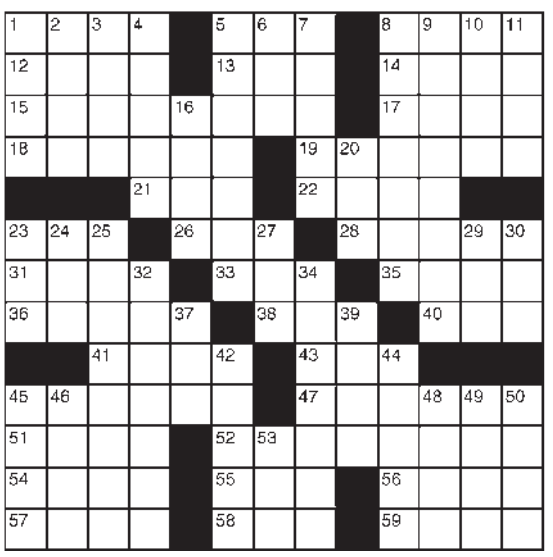
DOWN

1 Singer Feliciano
2 African antelope
3 Kennel cry
4 Flies alone
5 Edmonton's province
6 Actress Lucy
7 Quaint denial
8 Frozen spikes
9 Very active
10 Cookbook author Rombauer
11 Crystal gazer
16 Nepal's continent
20 Hearing thing
23 Watch chain
24 — jiffy
25 Greyhound's home?
27 Coffee holder
29 Actress Vardalos
30 Hog haven
32 Cat variety
34 Not as harsh
37 Rock's Brian
39 Drive- — window
42 Rainbow-shaped
44 Maximum
45 Streetcar
46 Took the train
48 Start of a spell
49 — gum (thickener)
50 Old U.S. gas brand
53 Single

Solution time: 23 mins.

J	A	M	P	■	S	I	Y	■	M	O	L	D
A	C	A	■	■	T	O	E	■	E	R	I	E
M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T	■	R	E	A	R
E	R	S	■	C	B	I	■	A	C	O	R	N
■	■	■	M	R	S	■	G	N	U	■	■	■
A	S	P	E	N	■	B	E	E	R	C	A	N
S	P	A	N	■	P	O	T	■	I	A	G	O
H	A	T	C	H	E	T	■	S	A	L	O	N
■	■	■	E	A	R	■	P	A	L	■	■	■
S	C	A	N	T	■	W	A	R	■	C	O	N
H	O	L	A	■	M	C	R	I	N	G	U	C
O	C	E	R	■	A	-	T	■	I	C	T	A
W	A	X	Y	■	P	-	Y	■	P	S	S	T

Yesterday's answer 9-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pippa Middleton, 34; Greg Rusedski, 44; Rosie Perez, 53; Swoosie Kurtz, 73.

Happy Birthday: Relationships will be the key this year. Don't be fooled by insincere gestures of friendliness. Keep your secrets tucked away and work quietly toward your goals. Planning and preparing will make a difference to what you can accomplish in the years to come. Practicality and hard work will result in positive change and greater opportunity. Do what's best for you and your family. Your numbers are 3, 14, 23, 26, 31, 39, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* An emotional situation will stand in your way if you let it consume you. Separate matters concerning your personal and professional life. Take care of business before you get immersed in matters that can disrupt personal plans. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* If you want something, put some muscle behind your desire. Don't expect things to come to you or rely on others to do things for you. Put in the time required to do the job and sit back and enjoy the outcome. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Problems with relationships will surface if you use emotional tactics to persuade others to see things your way. Dealing with children, parents or partners will lead to disillusionment or deception. Be clear regarding your motives and expectations. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Your insight will help you gauge what to do next. Taking a sensitive approach to the way you handle others at work will give you the opportunity to discover information that will help you make an important career decision. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't disregard the way others live or do things. Learn through experience and by taking part in cultural events or self-help programs that offer a broad cross section of opportunities for education and growth. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Listen carefully when talking with a prospective partner, and choose your words wisely. Stay focused on what's doable and only promise what you know you can deliver. A missed opportunity will come around again. Be prepared to make a move. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep a close watch on the way others act and respond to you. Someone is likely to give you the wrong idea about what's expected of you. Don't fold under pressure when dealing with matters that affect your personal life. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take part in educational pursuits. A creative endeavor or trying something that you have never done before will lead to new beginnings and friendships. A partnership will offer a different perspective on life and how you earn your living. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll meet with opposition when dealing with matters that affect your relationships, travel or educational plans. Don't cover up the truth. Honesty will be necessary, even if it hurts. Personal growth is encouraged. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You can turn a negative into a positive if you use persuasive tactics. Know what you need to offer in order to get what you want. You will come out on top if you are willing to give a little. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Responsibilities related to parenting or family will be restricting. Do your best, but don't neglect your needs. Accept the inevitable and work alongside someone you love in order to resolve whatever issues you face. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Share your ideas and do your best to help a cause that is close to your heart. Volunteer work will give you a different perspective when dealing with the problems you face with other people. Don't give in to self-deception. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, spontaneous and prepared. You are discreet and sensible.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6	1	9	2
	3	2		9			6	
	5		2			7		
		7			1			
	4				2			
8			6	4		3		
4		3			7		1	5
9	7					2	8	
2						6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	4	1	3	9	5	7	8	6
9	7	3	4	6	8	2	1	5
6	5	8	1	7	2	3	9	4
5	3	6	8	4	9	1	2	7
1	9	2	7	5	3	6	4	8
4	8	7	2	1	6	9	5	3
3	6	5	9	8	1	4	7	2
8	1	4	6	2	7	5	3	9
7	2	9	5	3	4	8	6	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ZEITGEIST Solution: 10 letters

D	T	N	R	E	D	O	M	O	V	E	M	E	N	T
E	T	A	A	G	O	A	L	T	H	O	U	G	H	T
E	G	Y	E	G	N	I	M	E	A	C	C	E	S	S
P	L	E	E	R	E	I	L	O	O	K	O	E	E	E
E	E	O	R	L	G	S	L	S	P	R	S	R	C	Y
R	E	R	G	M	L	N	U	E	Y	O	P	R	N	H
B	F	M	I	I	A	A	I	C	E	W	O	O	A	P
E	F	O	I	O	C	N	V	L	C	F	R	R	T	O
L	E	O	I	T	D	E	E	N	I	E	T	S	S	S
I	C	D	I	U	R	Ⓐ	S	T	O	A	S	R	M	O
E	T	O	S	U	D	D	Ⓡ	A	A	C	V	S	U	L
F	N	T	T	E	N	O	T	Ⓣ	E	M	I	E	C	I
S	R	L	R	E	I	D	E	A	Ⓢ	R	I	L	R	H
Y	U	S	R	I	T	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	I	P
C	I	T	S	I	R	E	T	C	A	R	A	H	C	S

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Access, Actions, Ages, Areas, Arts, Beliefs, Characteristic, Circumstances, Climate, Culture, Deeper, Effect, Errors, Feeling, Force, German, Goal, Great, Ideas, Industry, Leaders, Logic, Look, Modern, Mood, Movement, Natural, Period, Philosophy, Prevailing, Silicon Valley, Sports, Success, Theory, Thought, Time, Tone, Trend, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Bearings

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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Saipan Tribune

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DORIS M. DE VILLA, Petitioner vs. CHRISTIAN B. DE VILLA, Respondent) CD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0375) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PO Box 505920 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!

Opening Date: 08/11/17 Closing Date: 9/11/17

JVA#17-011: **Marketing Specialist I**
JVA#17-012: **Accountant II**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

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Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
website: www.developcnmi.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS
2014-CDA-12-IFB

CLOSING DATE: Friday, September 22, 2017 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR AIR CONDITION UNITS"

The scope of work may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office located on the 2nd floor of the CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-25

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

"REPAINTING PROJECT, WOMEN, INFANTS, &CHILDREN (WIC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD AT 9:00A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17- CHCC/FACILITY-24

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
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INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-008
JANITORIAL SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Housekeeping and Cleaning Services for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, Aug 30th, 2017 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 2:00 p.m., September 29, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

Recent survey from the Non-communicable Disease Bureau, CNMI Department of Public Health found that more than 60% of the adults in the CNMI are overweight or obese. Obesity is a major risk factor for hypertension, Type II Diabetes, and some types of cancer.

One of the most effective ways to lose excess weight is through eating fewer calories. This can be achieved by replacing foods without much nutrient value such as chips, soda, cakes, and cookies with fruits and eating more vegetables with meals.

Please, share this message.

The Racial and Ethic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program focuses on increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables through the BIBA Healthy Restaurant Project in order to prevent obesity. When dining out, look for BIBA menu items at participating restaurants: Shirley's Coffee Shop, Caravan of Food, and Everest Kitchen.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

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ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Martinez makes historic 4 homers vs Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—J.D. Martinez tied a major league record by hitting four home runs and the Arizona Diamondbacks routed the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers 13-0 on Monday night for their 11th straight victory.

Martinez became the 18th player in major league history to hit four homers in a game, and the 16th in the modern era. Earlier this year, Scooter Gennett accomplished the feat for Cincinnati.

Martinez hit a two-run shot in the fourth off Dodgers starter Rich Hill (9-7). Martinez added solo homers in the seventh and eighth innings before capping his power show with a two-run drive in the ninth.

Robbie Ray (12-5) struck out a career-high 14 in 7 2/3 innings. The last time Arizona won 11 in a row was June 18-30, 2003.

"I felt like it was one of those days," Martinez said. "I was seeing the ball well and when I was swinging, I was hitting it."

"We were part of history," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. "You can't believe it after it keeps happening—second, third and finally the fourth time. It was amazing. J.D. works as hard as anybody at his swing, perfecting his craft, and he deserves that moment."

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks' J.D. Martinez, right, hits a two-run homer as Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Rich Hill, left, watches along with catcher Austin Barnes, second from left, and home plate umpire Alfonso Marquez during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Indians 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Jose Ramirez homered again, Trevor Bauer earned his eighth straight win and the Cleveland Indians beat the Chicago White Sox 5-3 on Monday for their 12th victory in a row.

Ramirez connected a day after tying the major league record with five extra-base hits, including two homers.

Bauer (15-8) gave up two runs on three hits, striking out nine in 6 1/3 innings. The AL Central leaders moved closer to the team-record 14-game winning streak they posted last season.

Cody Allen worked around two walks to pitch a scoreless ninth for his 24th save in 28 chances.

Pirates 12, Cubs 0

In Pittsburgh, Cubs ace Jake Arrieta exited in the third inning with a hamstring cramp, and Pittsburgh routed the NL Central leaders.

Arrieta (14-9) clutched his leg in obvious pain. The 2015 Cy Young Award winner tried to stretch out his right leg during a visit by manager Joe Maddon and the trainers, but a test pitch ended with Arrieta unable to let go of the ball.

Arrieta said he thinks he'll be able to make his next scheduled start on Saturday against Milwaukee.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Steve Pearce had three hits as Toronto sent Red Sox starter Rick Porcello to his major league-leading 16th loss.

Boston fell for the fourth time in five games. Its lead in the AL East was trimmed to 2 1/2 games over the Yankees.

Kendrys Morales hit a three-run shot for Toronto in the first inning. Jose Bautista connected for a solo drive in the third, and Raffy Lopez chased Porcello (9-16) with a two-run homer in the sixth.

Porcello, who had won five of his previous six starts, allowed seven runs and 10 hits in 5 1/3 innings. He won the 2016 AL Cy Young Award.

Rays 11, Twins 4

In St. Petersburg, Corey Dickerson hit his 26th home run and also doubled twice, powering Tampa Bay past Minnesota.

The Twins' lead for the second wild-card spot was trimmed to a half-game by the Angels.

Logan Morrison, who got his 36th homer, and Kevin Kiermaier each added three hits for the Rays. Evan Longoria drove in three runs with a pair of singles.

Alex Cobb (10-9) gave up one run on three hits 5 2/3 innings. Jose Berrios (12-7) allowed five runs on seven hits in five innings.

Nationals 7, Marlins 2

In Miami, Anthony Rendon drove in four runs, Daniel Murphy drove in three more and Washington overcame a camera-denting home run by Giancarlo Stanton to beat Miami.

Rendon and Murphy each homered, doubled and singled.

Stanton hit his major league-leading 53rd home run, with the ball striking a TV camera just over the right-field wall.

A.J. Cole (2-4) allowed one earned run in 5 2/3 innings. Adam Conley (6-7) took the loss.

Rangers 8, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Elvis Andrus, Nomar Mazara and Rougned Odor homered, Andrew Cashner pitched six strong innings and Texas beat Atlanta.

The Rangers lead the majors with 215 homers, matching their total from last season.

Cashner (9-9) is 6-2 with a 2.62 ERA in his last 10 starts. R.A. Dickey (9-9) took the loss.

Angels 11, Athletics 9, 11 innings

In Oakland, Los Angeles employed an American League-record 12 pitchers on Labor Day, and Kole Calhoun hit a two-run triple in the 11th inning to beat Oakland.

Fernando Salas (1-0), the ninth Angels pitcher, tossed a perfect 10th for the victory. Keynan Middleton came in as the third pitcher of the 11th and got his third career save, as the Angels tried to move up in the wild-card race. The A's have lost a season-worst seven in a row.

Three Angels pitchers didn't record an out. The 12 pitchers overall topped the previous AL mark of 11 done four times, most recently by Tampa Bay in 2013. The Colorado Rockies set a major league record by using 13 pitchers in 2015 during a 16-inning game.

Astros 6, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Dallas Keuchel pitched effectively into the eighth inning as Houston won its fifth in a row.

Alex Bregman hit a tie-breaking, two-run double in the seventh inning for the AL West leaders.

Keuchel (12-3) allowed two runs and seven hits in 7 2/3 innings. He struck out five and walked two in his longest outing since April 5. The left-hander started the season 9-0, but was 2/3 with a 5.35 ERA in his seven previous starts since coming off the disabled list on July 28.

Yankees 7, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Starlin Castro homered and drove in three runs, Didi Gregorius also went deep and New York fueled its playoff push with a win over Baltimore.

After spotting the Orioles an early lead, New York bounced back for its fourth win in five games. The Yankees enhanced their position atop the AL wild-card race—they're 2 + games behind AL East-leading Boston.

Aaron Judge drew a career-high four walks, singled and scored a run to help the Yankees extend their wild-card lead over Baltimore to 4 + games.

The Yankees played without catcher Gary Sanchez, who began serving a suspension that was reduced to three games from four. The MLB suspension stemmed from an Aug. 24 brawl during a game against Detroit.

Rockies 4, Giants 3

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez drew a two-out, bases-loaded walk in the ninth inning, and Colorado halted a four-game skid.

The game at Coors Field was played in hazy conditions because of smoke from the Western wildfires.

San Francisco reliever Steven Okert (1-1) gave the Rockies their walkoff walk. Greg Holland (3-5) pitched a perfect ninth.

Charlie Blackmon hit his 33rd homer as the Rockies increased their lead to 1 1/2 games over Milwaukee for the second wild-card spot. Colorado is 8-0 at home against the Giants this season.

Royals 7, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Eric Hosmer, Salvador Perez and Alcides Escobar homered for Kansas City, which denied Detroit with its defense.

Alex Gordon reached well over the left-field fence to rob Mikie Mahtook of a three-run homer, while Lorenzo Cain's sliding catch took two RBI away from Jose Iglesias.

Since trading Justin Verlander and Justin Upton on Thursday, the Tigers are 0-5 and have been outscored 36-11.

The Tigers trailed 7-3 going into the ninth, but Nicholas Castellanos hit a three-run homer off Brandon Maurer with one out. Maurer struck out Efren Navarro before James McCann and Jeimer Candelario singled to put the potential winning run on base.

Reds 5, Brewers 4

In Cincinnati, Billy Hamilton hit a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting Cincinnati over Milwaukee.

Hamilton, who leads the majors with 58 stolen bases, sent a drive into the left-field seats for his fourth homer of the season. He connected off Josh Hader (1-3).

The last-place Reds opened a three-game series by stopping the playoff-contending Brewers. Raisel Iglesias (3-2) pitched a perfect ninth for the win.

Cardinals 2, Padres 0

In San Diego, Carlos Martinez threw a three-hitter and struck out 10, Yadier Molina hit a two-run single and St. Louis beat San Diego for its fourth victory in five games.

The Cardinals remained three games behind Colorado in the race for the NL's second wild card.

It was the second career shutout and complete game for Martinez (11-10). Luis Perdomo (7-9) took the loss.

Mets 11, Phillies 7

In New York, Jose Reyes and Asdrubal Cabrera each homered and the Mets built a big lead, beating Philadelphia to end a four-game losing streak.

The Mets were up 10-0 by the fourth inning.

Rafael Montero (4-9) won his second straight start. New York chased Mark Leiter Jr. (2-5) with a six-run fourth.

3 teams on Wade's radar

CHICAGO (AP)—Dwyane Wade is the last household name standing in the Bulls' locker room, but it sounds like he might be gone from Chicago before the regular season tips off.

The Bulls are expected to reach a buyout agreement with Wade in the coming months. According to multiple reports, LeBron James' camp expects Wade to end up with the Cavaliers if that happens. Two other teams may also be in the Wade sweepstakes.

The Miami Herald reported the Lakers and Heat are also in the mix for Wade's services if he reaches a buyout of his $23.8 million contract next season.

While the young Lakers are far from being contenders, Los Angeles is a preferred destination for most star athletes, while some of Wade's family has already moved back to Miami, where he won three NBA titles with the Heat.

The Cavs are still be the favorite to land Wade, who would reunite with James and create a formidable backcourt with Isaiah Thomas and Derrick Rose in Cleveland.

Wade averaged 18.3 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.8 assists in 60 games last season, playing 29.9 minutes per game. That scoring output in his first season in Chicago was his worst since his rookie 2003-04 campaign with the Heat, and his 43.4 percent shooting from the field was a career low.

Nadal against Federer in US Open semis looms

NEW YORK (AP)—A teenage tyro and Juan Martin del Potro's sledgehammer forehand stand between a blockbuster US Open semifinals between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

The two tennis giants marched into the last eight with straight-set victories to edge tantalizingly close to a long-awaited first-time showdown under New York's bright lights.

Nadal crushed Alexandr Dolgopolov, 6-2, 6-4, 6-1, in one hour and 41 minutes before Federer swept past Philipp Kohlschreiber, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 in an equally clinical fourth-round display.

Nadal will square off with 19-year-old Russian Andrey Rublev, who tamed ninth-seeded Belgian David Goffin 7-5, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 to become the youngest man to reach the Open quarterfinals since Andy Roddick in 2001.

Federer faces the biggest test yet after Del Potro—the only man to ever topple the great Swiss in a US Open final—sent fans into a frenzy on the Grandstand with a dramatic five-set triumph over sixth seed Dominic Thiem.

Del Potro overcame illness and a two-set deficit for the first time at a major to wear Thiem down, 1-6, 2-6, 6-1 ,7-6 (7-1), 6-4 after three hours and 35 minutes.

The ailing 2009 champion seemed close to retirement early on as Thiem took command but somehow conjured the finest comeback of his career. Del Potro famously ended Federer's five-year reign in 2009, also ultimately denying Federer a non-calendar-year grand slam, before a chronic wrist injury almost ended his career.

But once again, in inflicting Thiem with his first loss from two sets up at a slam, Del Potro proved that it's not just his deadly forehand but arguably the biggest heart in tennis that threatens to bring Federer unstuck once again

Winding the clock back a decade, 36-year-old Federer and 31-year-old Nadal have won the year's first three grand slam crowns and are heavy favourites to complete the sweep in New York.

Incredibly, though, their compelling 37-match rivalry has never reached Flushing Meadows.

Both living legends are again looking in ominous touch.

Top-ranked Nadal is into the last eight for the first time since 2013, when the Spaniard went on to defeat Novak Djokovic in the final to claim his second Open title.

Rublev is relishing the chance to play one of his idols in tennis's biggest arena.

"He's the real champion. I'm just going to enjoy it," the Russian said. "It's the quarterfinals and I have nothing to lose."

Meanwhile, the 32-year-old Kaia Kanepi, a former world number 15 whose career was almost ended by illness and a crippling injury, downed Russia's Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 6-4.

She will next face either Ukrainian fourth seed Elina Svitolina or Madison Keys of the United States.

It will be Kanepi's sixth quarter-final at the majors and second in New York after also reaching the last eight in 2010.

AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain races to return a shot to Alexandr Dolgopolov of Ukraine during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, in New York.

"It's very tough to believe where I am now after all that has happened. I didn't expect it," said Kanepi, who is playing in the main draw of an event for the first time this year.

In 2016, she appeared just once in Rabat as she battled the effects of Epstein-Barr virus and then painful plantar fasciitis in both feet.

Top seed Kristina Pliskova, the runner-up in 2016, needed just 46 minutes to sweep past Jennifer Brady of the United States 6-1, 6-0 and make her third Slam quarter-final of 2017.

The tall Czech had needed back-to-back three-setters to get to the last 16, including having to save a match point against Zhang Shuai of China in the third round.

Pliskova will next face American 20th seed CoCo Vandeweghe, who made the last eight for the first time by beating Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

Kanepi, who was once pushed to the brink of retirement by illness and crippling pain in both feet, reached the US Open quarter-finals Monday and declared: "I'm amazed I'm this good." She became only the second qualifier to reach the last eight in New York when she defeated Russia's Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 6-4.

But this time last year, she was at home in Tallinn wondering if she would or even wanted to play tennis again despite having made five Grand Slam quarterfinals.

"I'm amazed that I'm this good," she said.

Her shock is well-founded.

In 2016, she appeared in just one WTA event in Rabat, losing in the first round before a battle with the effects of Epstein-Barr virus and then plantar fasciitis in both feet forced her off tour.

But after passing her time by walking her dog Bossu, taking a vacation in Hawaii and racing cars on Finland's treacherous ice roads, she decided to try tennis once more.

"In June last year, I didn't care if I didn't play tennis again," said Kanepi. "I just tried to live a normal life and enjoy it and slowly figuring out. But it's very important to do what you love. If you do, then things will come." She got back into shape by training with Estonia's 2008 Olympic discus thrower Gerd Kanter.

Once she was fit, she returned to action, playing two second-tier ITF events in Estonia and Germany while failing to qualify for Wimbledon and Bucharest.

Using a protected ranking, she entered qualifying at the US Open and has not looked back, picking up her first main draw wins in the best part of two years.

"It's very tough to believe where I am now after all that has happened. I didn't expect it," said Kanepi.

She will face either Ukrainian fourth seed Elina Svitolina or American Madison Keys of the United States for a place in the semifinals.

Heat and pressure: US at Honduras in World Cup qualifier

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP)—Wiping sweat from his forehead under a broiling sun even before warming up, Tim Howard said he understands the difficult position the United States faces going into Tuesday afternoon's World Cup qualifier against Honduras.

By losing home games to Mexico in November and Costa Rica on Friday, the U.S. needs at least a tie against Honduras at Estadio Olimpico Metropolitano to stay on track for the third and final automatic berth in North and Central America and the Caribbean. A loss would mean that even with wins in their final two games next month, the Americans could wind up in a playoff against an Asian team or miss next year's tournament entirely.

Howard, the 38-year-old goalkeeper who started in the last two World Cups, cautioned against an all-out attacking approach for a U.S. team that will be missing forward Jozy Altidore because of his one-game suspension.

"You also have to be careful of how much you push going forward and making it feel as if it's doom and gloom," Howard explained. "The more rah-rah you are sometimes in these situations, the more tense everybody gets."

Temperatures in the low 90s with high humidity are forecast for the start (3:36 p.m. local, 5:36 p.m. EDT). That could make it feel like 110 degrees in a stadium set in the Sula Valley near the Merendon Hills.

"It's going to be a grind in every sense of the word. These are the days that are hard to explain to people who aren't here," U.S. captain Michael Bradley said. "The idea of big games, the idea of everything on the line, that can't faze us."

The grass was long, moist and heavy for Monday's practice, a sign play could slow Tuesday, when rain is possible.

"Obviously the field we're playing on tomorrow, nobody plays on fields like that. So that's a bit challenging," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said. "It's a little spongy, too. Who knows what they'll do in the next 24 hours with it?"

Mexico (5-0-2) leads the six-nation final round with 17 points and has clinched a berth, and Costa Rica (4-1-2) is second with 14. The U.S. and Honduras (both 2-3-2) have eight points each, with the U.S. ahead on goal difference, plus-one to Honduras' minus-seven. Panama (1-2-4) has seven points and Trinidad and Tobago is last with three (1-6).

The U.S. concludes the round against Panama on Oct. 6 at Orlando, Florida, and four days later at Trinidad and Tobago. The last time the U.S. fate was uncertain going into its final qualifier was in 1989, when a 1-0 win at Trinidad put the Americans in the World Cup for the first time since 1950. That started a streak of seven appearances in a row.

"When I took the job in November and we had zero points after two games, we fully anticipated the fact that this would go a full 10 games in order to qualify the U.S. team, and that looks to be the case," said Arena, who replaced Jurgen Klinsmann after a 4-0 wipeout at Costa Rica.

Altidore received a yellow card in the 71st minute of that Costa Rica match for running into Celso Borges, and a second yellow on Friday for pushing Johan Venegas in the 80th minute. That earned him an automatic suspension.

"It seems to me that the referees are refraining from issuing yellow cards because of that rule, which is, without going into a long debate, just a stupid rule," Arena said.

Joel Aguilar of El Salvador will officiate Tuesday. He worked the infamous Snow Classico, a World Cup qualifier four years ago in Colorado in which the U.S. beat Costa Rica 1-0 in a snowstorm. Aguilar also was on the field for the Americans' 1-1 draw at Mexico in a qualifier in June and for their win over Costa Rica in the semifinals of this year's CONCACAF Gold Cup.

"I don't think the referee is going to favor the United States when we go on the road in World Cup qualifying in CONCACAF," Arena said.

Arena is likely to make lineup changes, but not as many as the seven in June. Goalkeeper Brad Guzan could replace Howard, whom Arena said is still not 100 percent following leg surgery in November.

Center backs Matt Besler and Omar Gonzalez, left back DaMarcus Beasley, midfielders Kellyn Acosta and Alejandro Bedoya, and forward Clint Dempsey are among the possible additions, while Europe-based Geoff Cameron, Tim Ream and Bobby Wood could move to the bench.

Fall youth league draws 45 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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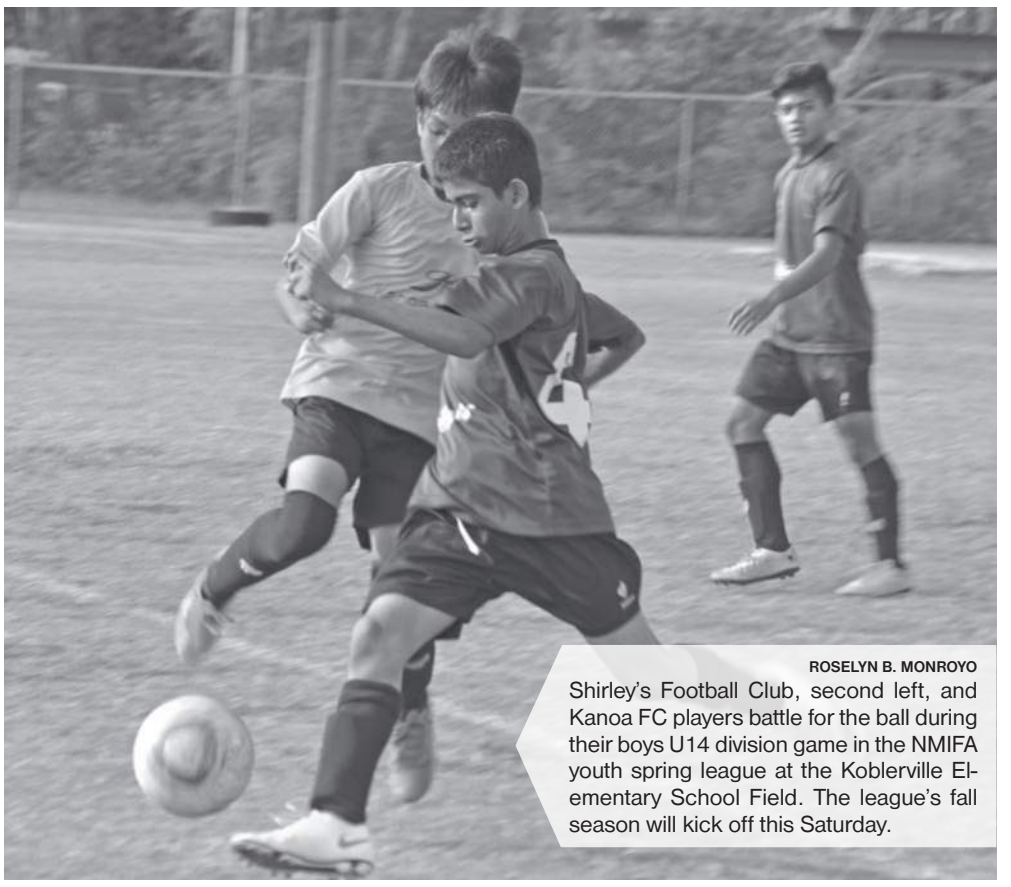
REPORTER



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Football Club, second left, and Kanoa FC players battle for the ball during their boys U14 division game in the NMIFA youth spring league at the Koblerville Elementary School Field. The league's fall season will kick off this Saturday.

Forty-five squads will see action in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League that will kick off this Saturday at the various school fields on Saipan.

The league is divided into non-competitive and competitive divisions with teams in the latter battling for the age group championships. In the boys U17 divisions, six teams will vie for the fall title and the list includes Kanoa Football Club, Matansa FC, MP United FC, Paire FC, TanHoldings, FC, and National Developing Academy. NDA is made up of players in the CNMI Women's National training pool and reinforced by a few more male players who are over 17, but are allowed to suit up for the squad to prepare them for off-island competitions.

Games in the boys U17 division will take place at the Hopwood Middle School Field with three matches set for each playing weekend. The division will have an 11 vs 11 format with two 40-minute halves. Teams will play in a double-round robin contest with the top finisher in the team standings winning the fall championship.

The girls U15 division, which will feature seven squads, has a different format. After the round-robin play, the Top 2 will automatically move into the semis, while the No. 3 to 6 finishers will battle for the last two Final Four berths. The division will have an 8 vs 8 format and will be played in two 35-minute halves.

Shirley's FC, TanHoldings, Matansa, Paire, MP United, Southern United, and Kanoa are the competing teams. Three matches will be played every Saturday at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School Field.

Over at the Koblerville Elementary School Field, MP United, Tan Holdings, Shirley's, Kanoa, Matansa, and Paire will fight for the boys U14 division crown. The champion will be determined by the final standings after the double-round robin play. The division will also have an 8 vs 8 format and each game will have two 35-minute halves.

For the co-ed U12 competitive division, each match will be played in two 30-minute halves and opposing squads must have five players apiece on the pitch. The team with the best record after the double-round robin contest will take the division title. There will be three matches per weekend at the Hopwood pitch and squads vying for the age group crown include Matansa, TanHoldings, Kanoa 1 and 2, MP United, and Paire.

In the co-ed U12 non-competitive level, six teams are also entered and they will play, too at the Hopwood pitch. Kanoa, Paire, Shirley's, MP United, Matansa, and Southern United are the participating squads.

Southern United also has a team in the co-ed U10 and will be joined by Paire, Kanoa, Matansa, Shirley's, and TanHoldings. In the U8, the list is made up of Paire, Matansa, Kanoa, MP United, TanHoldings, Shirley's, and Southern United. Teams in the U8 and U10 age groups will play in 5 vs 5 game of two 20-minute and two-15 minute halves, respectively.

Cuki plans to hold BJJ morning classes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Mixed Martial Arts/Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy is looking to expand its BJJ classes by holding morning sessions at its training facility at MIHA in Garapan.

The planned early sessions would only be for one hour, from 6:30am to 7:30am, daily. Veteran mixed martial arts fight promoter Cuki Alvarez said learning BJJ is open to anyone of all shapes and sizes.

"We want to start doing a 6am BJJ class and we're looking for some people who are interested to learn and train the combat sport. This is for those who are interested in [BJJ] who simply do not have the time to attend our night sessions or are just too shy to join the regular classes. So we are planning on catering to them by doing morning classes," said Alvarez.

He added that the morning classes would be mostly for beginners, but it remains open even to those who are already training for quite some time.

"This will be a good class for those who are shy or beginners, are too scared or just don't have the time to join the evening sessions."

Alvarez, last month, also implemented their new training schedule that includes boxersize every Mondays (K1 boxersize), Wednesdays (circuit training), and Fridays (K1 boxersize) from 6:30pm to 7:30pm for $35 a month.

There's an option for the five days a week sessions that include K1 boxersize (M-W-F) and Gi training or the Kimono used for BJJ classes every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8pm at $50 a month.

Option three includes K1 boxersize and Gi training (Tuesdays and Thursdays) with MMA training and sparring sessions every M-W-F for $60 a month. A mouthpiece is required for sparring sessions.

There's also a BJJ Gi class only every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8pm with an additional $4 mat fee for Saturday open sessions from 10am to 12nn. A daily rate or drop in fee is $4 per class.

For more information, email Alvarez at trenchwarriorsaipan@gmail.com or call or text him at 7834662 or visit the Trench Tech gym at MIHA.

MIX

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as 2017, LeAir Ballers topped Half Gang, 16-11.

Duncan Laxa tallied 6 points for LeAir Ballers, while Keno Ogasawara and Sean Apasan made 4 points each, and Dondi Ferrer recorded 2. Sunjoon Tenorio carried Half Gang on his shoulders, as he fired a game-high 10 points, while A.J. Hudkins scored the other marker for the losing squad.

In other results, Ballers Bros and Fab 4 prevailed in boys U16 and women's division games, respectively.

Ballers Bros was pitted against Boonkgang and pulled off a 10-8 triumph.

Khristian Itaas knocked in the go-ahead basket and also led Ballers Bros in scoring with his 5 points. Anthony Lajara chipped in 4 markers, while Drew Bayot had one. Stephen Bartolo also suited up for Ballers Bros, while Paolo Cadag and Adonis Favor played for Boonkgang and registered 3 markers each. J.C. Ferrari and Christian Bravo made the 2 other points for Boonkgang.

In the women's open division, Fab 4 eased past Blue Babes, 11-4. Eleina Santos towed Fab 4 to victory with her 6 points and was backed up by Annalei Santos and Jan Taimano, who recorded 3 and 2 points, respectively. Halle Kenty is also part of the winning team, while Tawnie Manibusan and Quina Flores were the scorers for Blue Babes. Also included on the losing squad's roster are Gillian and Jennifer Villagomez.

Meanwhile, seven more games were scheduled in the opening day of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 and complete results of these matches will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday edition. There were two more U19 division matches set for Day 1 (Big B vs Ol'Aces 2 and Warriors vs V-God), while the five remaining games were to feature four men's tiffs and one women's.

Teams playing in the men's and women's open are battling for tickets to Vanuatu for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. The Saipan leg of the Mini Games qualifier will run until Saturday and winners will join Tinian and Rota top finishers in the championship round that will be played later this month.

SIKKEL

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peted in XTERRA Saipan, Tagaman, and adventure races. As Brilliant Star School's principal, he is responsible for all interscholastic sports in which the school participates, including swimming, athletics, and soccer.

"Richard brings a wealth of experience to his new position. NMSA is confident that Team CNMI will be in good hands in Vanuatu," said NMSA president Michael A. White, who will head the CNMI delegation to the Games.

Accompanying White will be key members of the Organizing Committee for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, which will be hosted by the CNMI. Governor Torres, along with other CNMI government officials, are expected to attend the Games. As the head of government, Torres will receive the Games flag at the closing ceremony of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. The flag will be raised again at the opening ceremony of the 2021

HUMBLE

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also started with only a handful of training equipment.

"The team started off with nearly nothing. Equipment wise, we have two pairs of my personal boxing gloves, a pair of focus mitts donated by Tinian's veteran MMA fighter George Manglona, and a pair of MMA gloves, which belonged to Austin," the coach said.

But despite all the challenges they encountered, Manglona and his wards persisted, and slowly gained the attention of the Tinian community.

"As the team continued training, we gained more members and support from the community of Tinian. We received donated equipment and gear from friends and families," said Manglona.

Donated to Team Tinian by various members of the community were a secondhand wrestling mat, headgears, and hand wraps, while Tinian Municipal Council secretary Philip Mendiola-Long gave them brand new MMA gear.

"With the new gear [given by Mendiola-Long], the team can train and practice MMA more efficiently and in a much safer manner," Manglona said.

The team also found, cleaned, and spruced up an old and abandoned ring that was previously used in boxing matches held on Tinian years ago. Tinian's Department of Cultural and Community Affairs also granted them permission to use one of their facilities as a training venue.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and other members of the Tinian community then gave them the opportunity to raise funds through beach cleanups and yard work. Some of the money collected will be used for personal competition gear and to pay for their airfare to Saipan for next week's ROP 22.

"We also received support and assistance for the fighters and their chaperones from Tinian community leaders, like Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider," said Manglona.

Team Tinian will have six fighters on ROP 22's more than 10 undercard bouts with William "Pretty Boy" King facing Trench Tech's Luis "Two Trick" Litulumar in a kids exhibition kickboxing match and Kimo Adriano taking on Bad Ass Beach Boys' Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho. Audrien Cruz goes up against George "Game Over" Grover of Zombie MMA, while Austin King will try to test A.J. Barcinas in another fight that will have Team Tinian's bets trade punches against Luta Top Team. Perry Mundo against L.D. Ogo and Juschery Castro versus John Mendiola are the other two Tinian versus Rota bouts.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	77	60	.562	—
New York	73	63	.537	3½
Baltimore	70	67	.511	7
Tampa Bay	68	70	.493	9½
Toronto	63	74	.460	14

Central Division

Cleveland	80	56	.588	—
Minnesota	71	65	.522	9
Kansas City	67	68	.496	12½
Detroit	58	78	.426	22
Chicago	54	81	.400	25½

West Division

Houston	83	53	.610	—
Los Angeles	70	67	.511	13½
Seattle	69	68	.504	14½
Texas	68	68	.500	15
Oakland	58	78	.426	25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	82	54	.603	—
Miami	67	69	.493	15
Atlanta	60	75	.444	21½
New York	58	78	.426	24
Philadelphia	52	84	.382	30

Central Division

Chicago	75	61	.551	—
Milwaukee	72	65	.526	3½
St. Louis	69	67	.507	6
Pittsburgh	65	72	.474	10½
Cincinnati	58	79	.423	17½

West Division

Los Angeles	92	44	.676	—
Arizona	79	58	.577	13½
Colorado	72	64	.529	20
San Diego	62	75	.453	30½
San Francisco	54	85	.388	39½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inaugural Triple J 5K Foam and Fun Run

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

A young volunteer plays with the foam she picked up from the bubble pit during last Saturday's Inaugural Triple J 5K Foam and Fun Run.

Two teenage girls enjoy the foams coming from two bubble machines.

A young girl prances her way through the bubble pit.

A group of boys shares a light moment inside the bubble pit, which was a big hit to all participants of the event.

A young participant plays with the bubbles.

A boy makes the bubble pit his own playground.

A boy likes his moment alone in the bubble pit.

A mother enjoys a moment with her daughter.

Martinez makes historic 4 homers vs Dodgers

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Sports

Nadal against Federer in US Open semis looms

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Humble beginnings for Team Tinian

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Allen Manglona was among the coaches who helped train Austin John King for his bout against 22-year-old John Mendiola of Luta Top Team in last May's Rites of Passage 21: Throwdown. Little did Manglona know that would pave the way for the establishment of a mixed martial arts gym on Tinian.

"I was one of the coaches for the fight camp held for Tinian's young fighter. Austin was the lone competitor from Tinian in that event and he won the fight by first round [technical] knockout," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*. King stopped Mendiola at the 2:25 mark of the opening round.

He said that after the fight and helping King train, some parents approached him early July, asking him to supervise Tinian fighters who are getting ready for ROP 22: Rampage set for Sept. 15 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

"Several of Tinian's youngsters had interest in competing in ROP 22. They had no MMA coaches and had limited equipment. I saw this as an opportunity to serve my island and teach the youth and community the beautiful art of MMA, so I accepted the challenge and helped put together Team Tinian,"" added Manglona.

He said that Team Tinian, when they began, had no permanent training facility and proper equipment.

"There were no proper MMA facilities or gyms to train in and we would only do our training sessions outdoors, either by the beach or on the grass," Manglona said. "Training outdoors and the bad weather also limit us on what we can train. It is also unrealistic for it had no boundaries, such as the cage in which these fighters will be competing in."

Manglona, who now trains over 20 members, added they

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Team Tinian member, bottom, goes for a rear-naked choke as he tries to force his foe to yield in one of their sparring sessions at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Tinian facility.

Sikkel is CNMI Chef de Mission to Mini Games

CONRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Sikkel, standing third right, joins a group of paddlers for a photo-op at the conclusion of a local race early this month. Sikkel is the CNMI Chef de Mission to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has selected Richard Sikkel as Chef de Mission for Team CNMI in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

As Chef de Mission, Sikkel will have immediate responsibility for Team CNMI at the Games. His principal duties will relate to the welfare of Team CNMI in the Games Village.

Sikkel, a school principal at Brilliant Star School, has been involved in organized sports from a very young age, participating in tennis, judo, soccer, swimming, and wind surfing. He was part of the team that represented the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club in the 2004 Micro Cup in Palau. He has competed in or helped organize several international outrigger events in Saipan, Guam, Palau, Hong Kong, and Australia. In 2010, he represented the CNMI to the Micronesian Games, as a player/coach for the CNMI outrigger team. He has com-

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Mix Breed noses out Ballz Deep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mix Breed escaped with a 12-11 victory over Ballz Deep to make it to the win column of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Greg Sablan knocked in a long jumper from the left key in the closing seconds of the 10-minute game to lift Mix Breed past Ballz Deep in their boys U19 division game. Sablan went on to score Mix Breed's last three markers for the team's win in the opening day of the tournament.

Coby Santos, N-nes Siech, and Kiku Lizama are the other members of Mix Breed. Santos finished with 6 points, while Siech chipped in 3. Kenji Abobo paced Ballz Deep with his 5 markers, while Jude Tengco and Keeanu Diaz contributed 4 and 2, respectively. Ronel Aque is the fourth member of Ballz Deep.

In the other U19 division match on Day 1 of the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marian-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mix Breed's Greg Sablan, left, pulls up for a point-blanked shot against Ballz Deep's Jude Tengco during their boys U19 division game in the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.